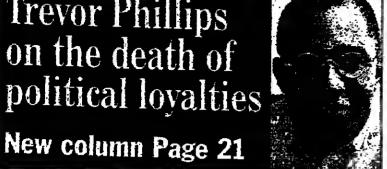
Trevor Phillips on the death of political loyalties



Style spice: Do you really wannabe cool?

the long weekend

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Tories say the unthinkable

Anthony Bevins and

Tug of ar ove

Vaddk

Tory attempts to create a united front for the election fell apart again yesterday when two former ministers, John Biffen and Edwina Currie, talked openly about the party's prospects after defeat in

While the party's most die-hard loyalists assembled for a pre-election Conservative Central Council meeting in Bath, Mrs Currie said that in the event of defeat, John Major should quit the leadership quickly. "Please, John, please, don't hang around, Don't make us wait," she said.

Mr Biffen said the scale of defeat might be so great that all the leading contenders could lose

The Prime Minister, who will trailblazing speech for the tion, replied that those who were worth their salt were fighting for victory. With feeling, Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, that the next government would told the council meeting. If you aim "to make sure that those who don't have something to say that will help us win, don't say anything was too late to suggest that he was putting himself above the short term fray for the election prize, with an agenda which all the

the Europhile Mrs Currie - break-

Speaking of the succession to Mr Major, something the activists in Bath steadfastly refused to do, Mr.
Bath steadfastly refused to do, Mr.
bowever, by an excoriating and deeply personal attack on Tony nature of the defeat is such that many of the obvious candidates for was portrayed by Dr Mawhinney the succession themselves have as an inexperienced, smarmy,

The party, he said, might have to wait for leadership contenders

mons through by-elections.

"There are many who feel John Major should remain the leader." he said, "not least to provide a decent period during which the party can consider the claims of the candidates and, as it were, let them use the catwalk to demonstrate their attractiveness and

for long as Leader of the Opposi-tion. "He would do it for the best of motives but ... we ought to have our leadership contest over, clean-ly and quickly."

minister, pointed out, if the Conservatives do lose the May election, Mrs Currie would be one of the first to be out of a seat. He dismissed her remarks as a

But the party will today want to devote its attention to the leader's speech at Bath, in which Mr Major will make his own "passionate and personal" claim for the centre ground of British

people - including the have nots can share....

That grand and idealistic picture was somewhat tarnished yesterday, grinning and hypocritical Socialist.

to get back into the House of Com- Conservatives would be asking the people to choose between Mr Blair and Mr Major, "between smarm and substance, between grins and grit, between Socialism and success".

Mr Major was facing a growing rebellion from senior Conservative MPs who are taking up the offer from a millionaire businessman Paul Sykes, to give £500,000 to fund

But Mrs Currie said it would be disastrous" if Mr Major stayed on As Alan Clark, another former "final fling".

Spinning the content of the speech last night, Conservative sources said Mr Major would

The party chairman said the



Mug shot: A souvenir of future hope for sale at the Conservative Central Council in Bath yesterday

their election expenses if they will come out against a single European currency in defiance of the Prime Minister's preferred "wait and see"

ont, who are expected to accept the

David Heathcoat-Amory, the for-

mer Treasury minister, yesterday joined senior Tory Euro-sceptics. Secretary, accused senior Tory MPs joined senior Tory Euro-sceptics. John Redwood and Norman Lam-

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign

of accepting "bribes" from the mil-lionaire businessman

Mr Cook challenged Mr Mawhinney to instruct all Conservative canPhotograph: David Rose

"If he will not do so, it is the voters who will treat with contempt a Tory party whose candidates can be bribed to oppose the policies of their own leader.

'If you don't have something to say that will help us to win, then don't say anything at all'

Brian Mawhinney, Tory chairman

'It may be that the nature of the defeat is such that many of the obvious candidates for the succession themselves have been defeated' John Biffen MP

'Please, John, please, don't hang around. Don't make us

Leading article, page 19 Edwina Currie MP

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Broadcasters put dialect on danger list

lan Burrell

A national survey is to be carried out to document the rich regional diversity of language in Britain before thousands more words of local dialect are lost. Linguists have identified the

spread of "Occupational Eng-lish", which is classless and de-void of regional accent and vocabulary, breaking down traditional speech patterns. Researchers from the Uni-

versity of Sheffield have found that this new accent of the workplace is quite distinct and more downmarket from re-At the vanguard of the ad-

QUICKLY

Nomura head resigns The president of Nomura Securities resigned yesterday, a week after admitting his company made illegal payments to a gangster's family. Pages 14, 22

Threat to South West Stagecoach, which runs South West Trains, faces a £1m fine and ultimately the loss of the £270m business unless it im-proves its cancellation-hit Pages 10

Jewish rift grows The rift between the Orthodox

and Reform Jewish communities in Britain deepened yesterday after it was disclosed that the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, had accused the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a Holocaust survivor, of being a destroyer of Ju-Pages 12 | on 15 February.

vance of Occupational English are local radio presenters, who shun the clipped tones of the BBC, but speak with a similar accent and vocabulary through-

At the same time, large parts of northern England and Scotland are now adopting the speech mannerisms of the south-east at the expense of their own regional accents.

John Wells, a professor of phonetics at University Col-

out the country.

lege London, said people in Manchester, Leeds and even Glasgow were speaking more like Londoners.

Glottal stops (as in "daw-er" for daughter and "war-er" for

A taste of regional vocabulary

arrer	(workmate)	North East
ab ·	(ear)	South Yorkshire
prack	(active child)	Severn estuary
it	(afraid)	East Midlands
oelk	(splinter)	North East
chin	(hedgehog)	West Midlands
ackend	(autumn)	Northern Englar
ap	(bounce)	South Wales
ake .	. (to play)	Northern Englar
hin	(Gorse)	Lake District

water) and the vocalisation of just in the South-east but in oththe L ("miwk" instead of milk) are increasingly common in

er parts of the country. One ex-

ception is Liverpool, which bas such a strong accent of its own." Northern conversation.

Professor Wells, author of the book Accents of English, said:
"You now get these features not remainded by the conversation.

Such a strong accent of its own."

Nationally there are more than 30 expressions for being left-handed yet "cack-handed".

commonly used in much of a halfway house."

northern England. In order that words are not lost forever, the University of Sheffield is about to undertake the first national survey of niversary this year of t regional English for 40 years shire Dialect Society. which will take a decade to

The survey is being run by Dr Clive Upton and Professor John Widdowson, of the university's Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, who said many words were being

Prof Widdowson said: "What we are seeing is a younger gen- fertiliser.

a term borrowed from the eration's version of standard South-east, is now the most English, which is much more of

As a pilot for the national survey, researchers are to compile a glossary of Yorkshire dialect, which will mark the 100th anniversary this year of the York-

Readers will learn that to be "blethered after addling your brass" means that you are exhausted after working hard for your money.

"Callifudging" is an old Yorkshire expression for messing about and "manishment" bas nothing to do with machismo but is a North Riding term for

Billie-Jo's foster father on murder charge

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the 13-year-old girl found bludgeoned to death in her back garden, has been

charged with the murder. Sion Jenkins, 39, a deputy head teacher, has also been charged with dishonestly obtaining his job by lying about his qualifications and his teach-

ing experience.
Billie-Jo was beaten over the head with a metal tent peg and was reported to have been found by one of her four stepsisters and Mr Jenkins at their home in Hastings, East Sussex,

The schoolgirl had been painting the patio doors.

Mr Jenkins was remanded in custody for a week at a special sitting of Hastings Magistrates court yesterday afternoon, 24 hours after being arrested for the second time.

The father of four spoke only to give his name and address during the 30-minute hearing. Smartly dressed in a blazer, blue-and-white checked shirt and fawn trousers, he remained impassive throughout the proceedings, occasionally bowing his head as two charges were read out in court. Along with being charged with the murder of his foster

that between 10 December 1991 and 14 March 1997 he dishonestly obtained for himself employment by deception, namely by falsely representing his academic qualifications and teaching experience.

An application for bail was refused. Soon after the bearing Mr Jenkins was taken to Lowes He was due to take over as headmaster of the William Parker School, in Hastings, in September, and has been on compassionate leave since the

murder. Mr Jenkins and his wife Lois, 35, a social worker, have been living apart since his initial daughter, he also faces a charge arrest on 24 February.



Billie Jo: Beaten to death

the killer. He told reporters that he had seen a stalker in the back garden and that Billie-Jo and his family had been worried about their safety.

He was arrested for the first time on 24 February and questioned for a day-and-a-half before being released on bail.

Mrs Jenkins returned to live at the house a few days ago after staying with relatives and this morning took her four children to school. Mr and Mrs Jenkins had fostered Bülic-Jo

After the murder, Mr Jenkins and his wife made a public

for five years and last December became her legal guardians. Mr Jenkins' solicitor. Brendan Salsbury, said his client "categorically denied" the murappeal for help to track down der charge.

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Motoring20

Lawyers demand Cheshire child sex abuse inquiry

Lawyers acting for 120 victims of child abuse in Cheshire yesterday called for a full public inquiry into Britain's higgest abuse scandal and into persistent allegations of a widespread organised paedophile ring that infiltrated childrens' homes in the Seventies and Eighties.

The lawyers also warned the Secretary of State for Health. Stephen Dorrell, that they would sue him if he did not order a public inquiry into a the scandal that has so far seen 13 men jailed for 110 years, 111 people named as abusers and 534 former residents claiming they were abused while in children' homes in the

Peter Garsden, a solicitor co-ordinating the legal actions being taken by a number of firms on hehalf of clients, said: "We have had 13 convictions as a result of a police inquiry which began three years ago and there should now be a public inquiry into the most serious pacdophile investigation over carried out in this country. I believe there was a paedophile ring in existence which was as disciplined as the Mafia."

Roger Dobson Roger Dobson

Jail for bouncer who headbutted MP

A bouncer who admitted head-butting an MP and breaking his nose was jailed for 12 months yesterday. Keiron Quinn, 30, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to assaulting Labour MP lan McCartney and causing him actual bodily harm at Wigan Lahour Cluh last November. Mr McCartney, 45, has campaigned for a national registration scheme for doormen and bouncers. Sentencing Quinn, who is married with two children, Bolton Crown Court Judge Brian Carter said: "You are not being sentenced by us because it was a Member of Parliament you assaulted. It is our helief that the public would be outraged if you did not go to prison.

16th-century gun unearthed

Archaeologists have uncovered one of the largest early guns to be found in Britain. It measures seven-and-a-half feet in length, weighs more than a ton and dates from the reign of Henry VIII

(1509-1547). It was found 20-30 yards from the river Hull at Kingston-upon-Hull on Monday, inside the foundation of a wall in the South Blockhouse, one of three brick fortresses built along the river on Henry VIII's instruction.

Zoe Evans strangled, inquest told



Murdered schoolgirl Zoe Evans was suffocated to death, an inquest was told yesterday. The cause of death of the nine-year-old was revealed to the Wiltshire coroner, David Masters, sitting at Salisbury, where he formally opened and adjourned an inquest into her death. The coroner was told her body had been concealed in a badger set after her disappearance from her Pepper

Place home at Warminster on

January 11. It was revealed by animal activity on the steep side of the Battleshury Hill, a bronzeage site, three quarters of a mile from her home in army married

The area had previously been searched by Army personnel and police with dogs trained to search and find bodies. The hillside body was formally identified as that of Zoe on Wednesday following extensive forensic tests. Mr Masters was told yesterday that DNA fingerprinting was the technique used in the

Rugby boss cleared of libel fraud

The chairman of Wigan Rughy League Football Club, Jack Robinson, 55, was cleared of a charge of attempting to pervert justice by a jury at Bolton Crown Court veslerday after a four-day trial. Mr Rohinson was accused of trying to induce an executive of Leeds Rugby League club to supply him with letters purporting to show that a £150,000 player transfer deal had been cancelled following damaging reports in a local weekly newspaper, the Wigan

The letters were to be used in a legal action against the newspaper with the offer that any damages obtained would be shared by the two clubs, alleged Mr Alan Conrad for the prosecution. Mr Rohinson, a wholesale antiques dealer of Pendlebury Lane, Haigh, Wigan, told the jury he had acted at the hehest of Cowie's father-in-law. Jack Martin, who was a fellow director of the club. He said he was always confident Mr Davies would reject the proposal out of hand - which he did. He said he only agreed to put the proposal to Mr Davies in order to keep Mr Martin "sweet" and to ensure that Mr Martin would not withdraw a £250,000 loan to the Wigan club which was in financial difficulties Peter Greenhalgh

Jet-set conman must pay £3,000

A businessman who flew all over Europe on charter tickets which he had upgraded to club-class must repay more than £3,000 to British Airways, a judge ruled vesterday. Roger Roberts. 41, was also ordered to pay £4,000 court costs and do 100 hours' community service, after appearing for sentence at Isleworth Crown Court. But he was lucky not to go to prison, said the judge. Recorder Thomas Culver.

Roberts, of Hornchurch, Essex, had been found guilty at an earlier trial on seven specimen charges of using false instruments and seven of obtaining services by deception. He bought the cheapest fixed-date ticket, usually from Going Places, said Ms Parmit Cheema, for the prosecution. Then without any authority from the airline ... he falsified that ticket by putting on a revalidation sticker which made it look as if this very cheap economy world fare ticker was an open club class ticket which could be used at any time," she said.

Nursery vouchers scheme

Hammersmith and Fulham council did not take part in the pilots of the nursery vouchers scheme as was reported in Thursday's edition of The Independent.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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BACK ISSUES Back raises of the **Independent** on assaulte from matter Newscapes, telephone 01988 640310



Pain threshold: An injured Mr Clinton is helped from Air Force One on arrival in Washington

The battle of wounded knee takes toll on golfing Clinton

t was to be a President's perfect Florida spring break: sunshine, some gentle fundraising, and lots and lots of golf. For Bill Clinton however, it ended in the agony of a torn knee tendon, a premature return home on a wheelchair and the prospect of a month or more on

The calamity occurred at 1.20 am yesterday, when Mr Clinton stumbled heavily as he was going down some steps on the West Palm Beach estate of Greg Norman, friend and golfing superstar, with whom he played a round during his recent official visit to Australia. The President "left something go pop," according to his spokesman. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was given painkillers - "non-narcotic", aides quickly noted, mindful of the man who

famously once smoked dope ... but did not inhale. After being ferried back to a rainswept Washington on Air Force One mid-morning yesterday, a wincing Mr Clinton was laboriously helped into a black secu-nity service van for the short trip to the Naval Hospital in suburban Bethesda, where Presidents traditionally Surgery to re-attach the tendon to the right thigh bone was scheduled for the afternoon. Tha prog- anywhere else.

nosis is of full recovery, but not before much incon-

For the operation only local anaesthetic was planned, meaning Mr Clinton would remain conscious, and would not have to temporarily transfer power to Vice President Al Gore, under the 25th amendment. of the US Constitution. But he will be using a knee brace.

of the US Constitution. But he will be using a knee grace, and crutches, doctors say, for four to six weeks, and his immediate work schedule is in much doubt. For the moment at least, the summit with Bork Yelsinnext week is still on, as is Mr Gore's important trip to China later this month. "You bet," was Mr Clinton's reply when asked if he would still be going to Helsink? for what now bodes to be an invalids reunion.

By the standards of recent presidential stays in Bethesda, Mr Clinton's is small beer - nothing to compare with Ronald Reagan's colon cancer of near as assination, or George Bush's heart fibrillation in 1991 that fleetingly raised the unnerving spectre of Dangayla in the Oval Office. Even so, this most golf-addicted of Presidents will not be swinging a club for a good while thereafter - be it in Finland, Florida or Rupert Cornwell, Washington

Morris goes from the ridiculous to the subliminal

Chris Morris, creator of Channel 4's satire Brass Eye, took another swipe at the media's concepts of truth and reality this week - this time by setting himself up.

It was almost certainly Morris (right) who leaked to the press the story of an obscena subliminal message about Channel 4 chief executive Michael Grade, contained in the last episode of the

The message, "Grada is a c***, was virtually undetectable without sophisticated equipment, and such is the uncertainty that the notorious hoaxer causes at Channel 4 that at first there was even some doubt whether the messaga had actually been broadcast.

The story of the subliminal message originally surfaced at the be-ginning of the week in an anonymous fax to a Time Out journalist who Morris - famous for never giving on-the-record interviews - had used as a conduit in the past. At the same time, Channel 4's Internet site received an Email telling the channel to look tor the obscene message.

Thailand yesterday issued an arrest warrant for tha

Saudi Arabian tycoon Adnan Khashoggi, marking a fresh legal tussle tor the jet-setting financier who was

once one of the world's richest men. Police said they

had issued warrants for Khashoggi and four other of-

ficials of the Bangkok Bank of Commerce Plc (BBC)

An officer said the Bank of Thailand requested the warrants for tha five on suspicion that they jointly

conspired for Khashoggi, 61, to draw two billion bahl

(\$77.5m) in loans from the BBC, without credible col-

lataral, in 1995. The whereabouts of the glohetrotting

businessman are unknown. But his multi-million dol-

lar deals, court cases and elite acquaintances have

Khashoggi, whose wealth once lotalled \$4hn,

spread his fame throughout the world.

on charges ol conspiring to defraud the bank.



The story was then picked up by the Sun.

"It has been like this since day one," said tha harassed Channal 4 press officer who had to deal with the show. "He weaves reality like a spell and tums everything into ironic media languaga. The series has finished now but he won't go away, he seems to lurk in the air."

Morris himselt doesn't help, refusing to deny or confirm if he was responsible for the message, say-ing only "I deal in lies." The rationale for the message is supposed to be Morris' ire al Channel 4 pulling a sketch about Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe from tha final episode. Paul McCann

Thailand orders Khashoggi's arrest for fraud

12-year-old girl to win Oxford place A 12-year-old girl is a step away from becoming one of Britain's

youngest university students. Sufiah Yusof, from Weston Favell, Northampton, needs to pass one more test in order to begin a mathematics degree at Oxford Universi-

She is emulating Ruth Lawrence, who became Britain's youngest graduate when sha gained a First in mathematics at Oxford in 1985. And Sufish could soon be joined by her sister Aisha, 14, and broth-

ars Abbi, 15, and Iskander, 10. They are also well-advanced in mathamatics and hope to win places at Oxford next year. Sufiah has been offered at place

at the all-famale St Hilda'a College providing she gets a grade A in a further mathematics A Level. Sha has now completed three parts of tha axamination and will sit the final paper in June. But sha has already dona so well that achieving a grada A should be a formality.

Sufiah achieved a grade A In mathamatics last year. Her father Farooq, a research engineer, said the family was planning to move to Oxford to be near Suffah. "Barring a disaster, sha should get a grada A because she's done so well in

amassed one of the largest personal fortunes in the world by playing middleman in the transfer of West-

Much of It came from commissione paid in the

1970s by Western corporatione that he guided in

dealing with an Arab world flush with petro-dollars

In 1986, Khashoggi played a key role in Initiating

contacts between Israel and US officials on the Amer-

ican government's then-secret scheme to sell arms to

high and mighty, entertaining the former US secretary

of stata, Henry Kissinger, the former head of Chrysler, Lee lacocca, and King Juan Carlos of Spain on his

Throughout his carear, he has hobnobbed with the

Reuter, Dubai

em arms and technology to Arab oil states.

and anxious to modamise.

briefing

Crime level nearly twice as high as official statistics

Crime is running at nearly twice the level suggested by official statistics, a survey claims today. Some 44 per cent of crime victims questioned for the survey — conducted by MORI for Reader's Digest — admitted that they had failed to report it to the police.

They did not do so because they did not think the police would do anything about it; had no confidence that the criminals would be caught or because they felt the offences were too trivial.

be caught; or because they felt the offences were too trivial. The survey comes just days before the Home Office publishes the official figures for 1996, which are expected to show the fourth consecutive fall in the total number of offences recorded by police in England and Wales. But despite the falling figures and the tough law and order rhetoric emanating from politicians, almost nine out of 10 people told the survey that their concern about crime had actually increased in record pears.

actually increased in recent years.

In a separate study, the cost of car crime is said to have hit its highest level since 1993. The insured cost of theft of and from highest level since 1993. The insured cost of the first of and from highest level since 1995, said the private cars in 1996 was £494m - up 14 per cent on 1995, said the Association of British Insurers.

DEFENCE

Global nuclear stockpile warning

More than 2,000 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium and uranium are stockpiled in military stores around the world, often with lax controls at both national and international level, say the authors controls at both national and international level, say the authors of a book published this week. The majority of this material is surplus to military requirements and cannot be used for other applicatious. In addition, new reprocessing plants in France and the UK are dramatically increasing the supply of plutonium which could be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

The authors, all nuclear scientists working at a senior level, draw particular attention to the situation in Russia and the former

Soviet Union, where controls on the materials are less than stringent. Since just s few kilogrammes of plutonium are needed to make a bomb, the threat of theft by agents of non-nuclear

countries, or terrorists, must be taken seriously, they argue.

Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996: World Inventories,
Capabilities and Policies. Albright, Berkhout and Walker, Oxford University Press



SCIENCE

Physics books will need rewriting

Cambridge scientists have achieved a major breakthrough which could mean school physics books have to be updated. A century after the electron was discovered, they have created a quantum measure of electrical current - creating another equation, I=eF. which physics pupils will have to learn.

The achievement is expected to lead to the first standard

definition of the charge on a single electron. It also has farreaching implications for ultra-low power energy sources and selfregulating "smart" computer chips.

The breakthrough was made by physicists in the same

Cambridge University laboratory where the electron was discovered by J J Thomson, 100 years ago this month. Professor Michael Pepper and his team used high frequency soundwaves to trap and drag individual electrons, one by one, through a device called a "split-gate" that concentrates electrons into a narrow stream. The electrons are carried along in the

troughs of the wave, emerging at the same frequency.

The team is now trying for the first time to establish a precise standard definition of the charge of a single electron. The method is to measure the current using standard instruments and then Charles Arthur divide it by the frequency.

FOOD

Quest for a high-flying croissant

The UK's lightest, finffiest, airport croissant can be found in the British Airways passenger lounge at Glasgow Airport. So says the restaurant critic Egon Rouay, in his third annual gastronomic guide to airports, published yesterday. Planet Hollywood, at Gatwick's South Terminal, meanwhile, is judged to have the best atmosphere, as well as the most welcoming and friendly service. While Mr Ronay's "best chips" award unsurprisingly went to Harry Ramsden's (also at Glasgow), the chain's outlet in Heathrow's Terminal One was applanded for the "most appetising traditional breakfast".

The "most authentic cappuccino" award was jointly won by AMT Expresso at Heathrow's Terminal One and Café Select at Edinburgh. The "tastiest sandwich or baguette" is deemed to be offered by Pret a Manger at Heathrow, while the "best wine by the glass" is at the Noon Indian restaurant, also at Heathrow.

Would-be MPs focused on film

A survey of General Election candidates' interest in the arts shows that 69.5 per cent choose film and video as their favoured artistic form, 69 per cent choose classical music, 66.5 per cent museums and heritage, and 65 per ent literature. Only 55 per cent named theatre. Less than 40 per cent were interested in pop music, and not even 10 per cent in contemporary dance.

The survey of more than 700 candidates by the National Campaign for the Arts, an independent pressure group, had a response rate of more than 40 per cent. Of these, more than half said they attended an arts event at least once a month. Arts News, the journal of the National Campaign for the Arts, £2.50. Tel: 0171 828 4448

David . David Lister



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers

in the first half of 1996

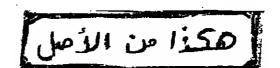
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In the shadow of Satan

Voodoo and other pagan goings-on haunt a small country town that appears to be going to the devil...

For more than a year, the people of Lewes, the county town of East Sussex, have feared that they could be living in the shadow of the occult.

Cats had been sacrificed on church steps, a hedgehog with runic death symbols nailed to its hody was posted through a letterbox. And a young envi-ronmental activist fell from a 300ft cliff after leaving a message saying: "Please God. Somebody save me. Protect me from black magic."

Some locals believed that the medieval town, which has ancient pagan traditions, might have become the home for a Satanist sect similar to that led by Aleister Crowley, who died in

Sussex 50 years ago.
But detectives who have investigated the series of sinister

rewriting∙

آفقة برء





تعكدًا من الأصل

Strange days: Reveilers taking part in the Lewes torchlight bonfire procession, which is held every 5 November

rituals said that they had robes were also retrieved. stopped after the arrest of a single schoolboy.

This week, at Lewes Magistrates' Court, the youth, who has now turned 17; denied pushing a dead hedgehog through the letterbox of a local woman. The court heard that eight

nails had been used to attach a runic note to the animal. The letters were translated as: "Hai Satan. By this rune beware all cursed. So be it." The prosecu-tion was forced to drop the case when a key witness could oot identify the defendant.

Next month the youth will be sentenced on four other charges of which he has been convicted, including the theft of a knife, actual bodily harm and the disorderly behaviour of forcing a younger boy to his knees to recite the Lord's

Prayer in a graveyard.

Police who visited the youth's home found he had converted the coal-shed of his mother's council house into a black magc shrine. The walls were painted hlack, and a star and runic circle were marked out on the floor. A cross was hung upside down in the sign of the devil.

At an earlier hearing at Lewes Youth Court, the boy admitted stealing a stone cross gravestone which was found in the shrine. Candlesticks, chalices and priests' The people of Lewes are

more accustomed than most to pagan ceremony and strange goings oo. Every November, 60,000 people converge on the medieval town to watch its ancieot bonfire societies burn effigies oo giant pyres. Unlike the bonfires, other recent rituals in Lewes will not be appearing in

. 6 He is the spookiest person I have ever-met in my life 🤊

tourist guides.

They started just before Christmas 1995 when a vicar found that figures on the children's crib had been smashed. A dead cat on the vestry steps had its throat slit and, two days later a beheaded cat was dumped in the same spot.

Soon after, at another nearby church, seven stone crosses were smashed and others turned upside down. Around one grave a shallow trench had been dug out and set on fire. At about this time, Nick Gargani, a 26-year-old who was ac-tive in the local Green Party. struck up a friendship with the

youth. The pair shared an interest in Tarot cards. One Sunday last April, Mr Gargani visited his girlfriend Luisa Serrechia in a state of distress. He was crying aod told her that someooe was trying to kill him. He said he had received a

voodoo doll through the post and a cow's heart hammered through with nails. Three days later. Mr Gargani went for a walk along the chiffs that over look Lewes and plunged 300 feet to his death.

Wheo police visited his flat they found pages from the Bible plastered across the walls along with the scrawled cry for help At an inquest into Mr Gargani's death, the coroner, Veronica Hamilton-Deeley, recorded an

open verdict.

She said: "I certainly can't ignore a cry for help and the evidence suggests that he got caught up in this stuff, f can't explain his death." Although police say there is no evidence to link the teenager directly to Mr Gargani's death, friends of the dead man say he had fallen uoder his influence. Johnny Dennis, who knew Mr Gargani well, said: "It sounds like Nick was sufficiently disturbed [to kilt himself]. But only because of this very close contact with this

particular character."

The youth was arrested in July, placed on a 7pm curfew and banned from visiting places of worship. An earlier court hearing heard that he forced a 13-year-old boy to drop to his knees and recite the Lord's Prayer after stopping him while he was skatchoarding near St

Michael's churchyard. As the younger boy faltered

in his recital, the older youth listened and enacked his knuckles. He said: "I presume you are not religious. That's a good thing. You don't want to get into any of that.

Court officials creeted a barrier in front of the youth so that young witnesses could give ev-

idence without having to Police officers have felt

Photographs: Andrew Hasson

chilled by his presence. One detective said: "He is probably the wierdest, spookiest person I have ever met in my life. He is very mature in a way that belies his age. I would seriously compare him to Damien in the Omen films.

"He scares people who are far, far older than he is. Mature. sensible, intelligent people are

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Five great sections for the very best in Sunday journalism



THE NEW LOOK **OF LOVE**

Reform school at 12, stripping at 14, druggy ween of the grunge scene in her twenties, and a celebrity widow by 30. Now Courtney Love is reinventing herself agair - as a movie star. Marianne Macdonald witnesses a remarkable transformation



PLUS: WIN AN ORIGINAL **DRAWING BY** RALPH STEADMAN

In association with the Royal Academy - and to orark an exhibition opening next week – win Ralph Steadman's tribute to George Grosz, worth £5,000

IT IS. ARE YOU?



grave in St Michael's church Scots penguins bring

Poisoned apples add to Maff's troubles

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

After BSE and E.coli in beef, now it is pesticides in good old

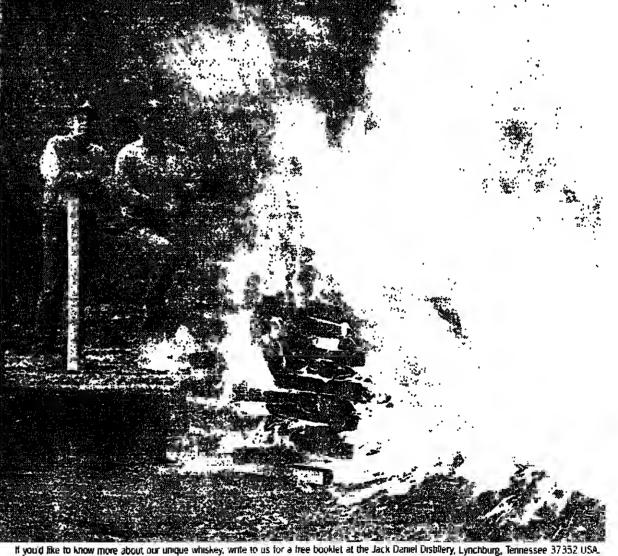
British apples.
The Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food armounced
the findings of a report showing that UK-produced apples have been found with high

traces of pesticides.
Officials at Maff, dubbed the "Ministry of Incompetence", insisted that apples were safe to eat and the highest residues of pesticides found were still within internationally-accepted safe-ty limits. One Maff source said: "It's not mad apple disease." But the officials added the rider that it was wise to wash fruit before eating.

Research showed that along with apples, the consumer's diet may include carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, paclobutrazol, tria-zophos; bananas may carry chlorpyrifos; and oranges may carry malathion, methidathion, and parathion methyl.

Professor Sir Colin Berry, chairman of the advisory com-mittee on pesticides, said the chance of finding a high residue apple would be less than one in a thousand items of fruit.

The pesticides would have no effect on most people, said the officials. Toddlers and habies might get a reaction but only if they are two of the "worst case" quarter-pound apples in one day, and they might suffer a bout of "griping stomach". They would be more likely to be sick from apples than the pesticide.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

love in from the cold

That hoary old myth that Scan-dinavians are red bot lovers has been firmly laid to rest. In fact. they now need help with their flagging libido from the allegedly dour Scots.
This, at least, is the case

with penguins. Keepers from the Bergen Aquarium in Norway are visiting colleagues in Edinburgh to find out how they can re-awaken the romantic instincts of their birds, and reverse the serious lack of reproduction. Edinburgh zoo will give their

Norwegian guests a compre-hensive assessment of what had gone wrong with the Gentu pen-guins hornones, examining in detail every aspect of their lives from diet to nesting materials.

The 100 or so Gentus in the Scottish zoo have no such problems. leading healthy, well adjusted sex lives in ouclean families, and bringing up well behaved chicks.

David Field, a penguio keeper at Edinburgh zoo, explained that the birds are re-markably social and romantic creatures, with attitudes which would be considered ideal for the liberated 90s.

Pairs are loyal to each other. male penguios do not try to prove their machismo by playng around, and the "divorce" rate is extremely low. Partners and to be changed only after one dies, and then after a period

Males; said Mr Field, are the epitome of the modern man.

"They play a full part in oest and brightly coloured, as well as



ing the chicks. The pairs are also remarkably loyal to each other, and teod to stick to the same

Nor are the pairings based purely on lust. The boodings start before the mating season begins and seem to grow stronger over time.

Just as in human relatiooships, presents mean a lot to a courting penguin. Mr Field explamed: "As they prepare their nests, they start to form a very strong pair bond, through the presentation to each other of

Photograph: Colin McPherson building, incubation and rear-ing the chicks. The pairs are also And it is not just the male Gentus who come bearing gifts. The females are just as likely to present their own share of shiny stooes and tasteful scrub. They do not seem to think they are

> In Oslo, zoologist and author Olivia Sorensen said: "Obviously we are grateful for the help of the British experts. The Gentus are very nice creatures, and we want them to continue to reproduce in Bergen. As for the so-called sexual drive of Scandinavian humans, l always thought that was a strange Ao-

being too forward, said Mr



child But may be much be described as a larger of the state of the sta

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Appeal on forced birth is refused

Kate Watson-Smyth

A pregnant woman who was detained under the Mental Health Act and forced in have a cuesarean section was vesterday refused leave to seck a judicial review challenging the legality of the decision.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that Ms S, a 29-year-old vetcrinary nurse, had failed to launch the proceedings within the required three-month time limit and for that reason he was refusing her application.

Ms S, who cannot be named for legal reasons, wanted to bring the case in nrder to decide whether the 1983 Mental

6 The hospital applied for a detention order without giving her the chance to go to court 9

Health Act can be used to detain a pregnant woman against her will and force her to undergo invasive surgery for physical, rather than mental.

An appeal is likely and the Court of Appeal will have to decide whether the issues raised by Ms S outweigh the fact that her application for a judicial review came too late.

She launched the challenge against Louize Collins, the London Boroughof Merton's social worker who formally applied for her to be detained in hospital under the Act. and the NHS Trusts running the hospitals where she was held and treated - St George's, Tooting and Springfield Hospital.

The courts were also being asked to decide whether, once a person was detained, hospital managers acted lawfully in denying her access to a court, "or even informing her that it is intended to apply for a declaration in the Family Division that the treatment to which she does not consent may be forced upon her".

a 10-month girl, said that she was disappointed but would appeal against the decision. The court heard that Ms S had a long-standing aversion to medical intervention, including

injections and anaesthesia. She had planned to go to Wales, where she had close friends, in order to give birth there, but when she was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia she was advised to have bed rest, said Richard Gordon QC.

"She explained to the doctor that she was feeling fit and well and wanted a home delivery. She also said that as a veterinary nurse she was aware of the risk of pre-eclampsia."

But the doctors were fearful for the safety of Ms S and her baby and nn 26 April, when she was 36 weeks pregnant, they nhtained a court order for her to be detained and the caesarean section was carried out. She said she was "angry and upset at being forced to undergo

invasive surgery".

Mr Gordon told the court that after the operation Ms S found it difficult to bond with the baby and has suffered from flashhacks and post traumatic stress disorder.

"The hospital applied for treatment without telling Ms S, or giving her the opportunity to go to court and put her side of the story. It cannot be right that a person should remain in ignorance of the application until it is too late to do anything about it," he said.

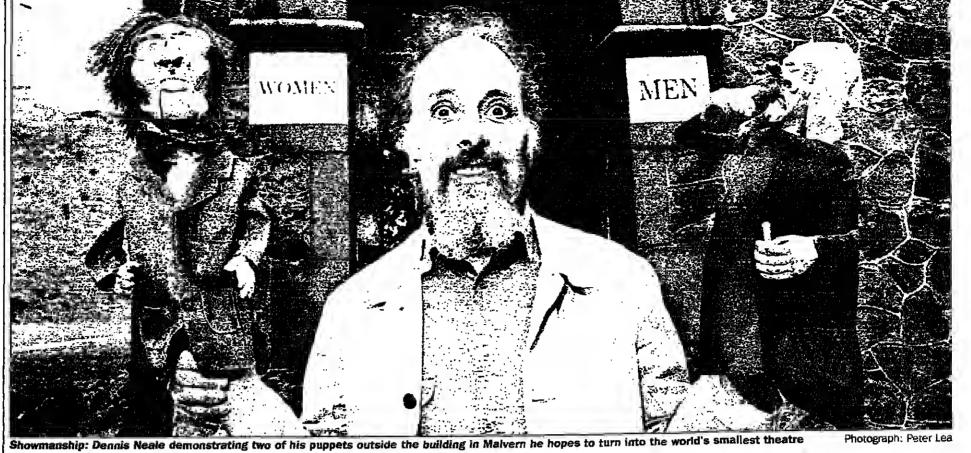
"This case enshrines a number of points involving fundamental human rights."

After the hearing, Barbara Hewson, representing Ms S, said: "This is a very important case for women generally and she has been turned away on a technicality.

She said that immediately after the hirth. Ms S had rejected her baby and had considered having her fostered.

One of the reasons for the delay in hringing the application was the battle which she fought with the social services for custody of her daughter, after ini-tially rejecting the baby.

Once she had made contact with a solicitor, there had been long delays in obtaining medical records and the application was not launched until 6 December, seven months after she had



Loo becomes theatre of convenience

The smallest theatre in the world is to open in an old Victorian lavatory. The former men's public convenience is just 16ft long and between 6 and 10ft feet wide.

The wedge-shaped building in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, has a stone facade and many of the original white splashback tiles inside. But part-time social worker Dennis Neale, 49, believes it will be the perfect venue for

one-man shows, poetry read-ings and puppet shows. He plans to create a stage at one end measuring 6ft by 4ft, with seating on two levels for an audience of 15 people.

Mr Neale, an amateur puppeteer of Welland, near Malvern, has already christened the building the Theatre of Small Conve-nience. "Obviously the tak-

ings would be rather small so its not going to be a huge money-making venture," he said, "But its a magical building and will provide a wonderfully intimate atmosphere.

"The sealing has got to be very clever. I have this idea to do tiered seating in a honeycomb shape to maximise the number of people we can fit inside. The seats could be shaped like old-fashioned urinals which would be an un-

usual and eccentric touch "There will be no room for a bar and the ticket attendant will probably have to stand outside. Unfortunately there will be no changing rooms

at a nearby hotel - we could always provide them with an umhrella if it was raining. "But I think it would be a

challenge for actors to per-form in such a small theatre. They certainly wouldn't need a microphone.

The new theatre in Edith Walk, Malvern, Worcester.

will be half the size of the building which currently lays claim to the title of the world's smallest theatre. The 1997 Gunness Book of Records gives that honour to the Piccobi theatre in Hamburg, Germany, which was founded in 1970 and boasts

an audience capacity of 30.

Mr Neale is hoping to rent the council-owned huilding for around £35 a week. It will be a contrast to the Malvern Festival Theatre which is undergoing a £6.8m facelift.

The spa town stages its own festival every summer in honour of composer Sir Edward Elgar who lived nearby

in Lower Broadheath, But local wags are already suggesting the theatre should stage its own season of Shakespeare plays including Lav's Lahours Lost, King John, Toi-let and Cressida and The Two

Gents Of Venina. Mr Neale met Malvern town-centre manager Ms

Jane Allen vesterday to discuss the project and is hoping the new theatre could open within three months.

"I think its an absolutely fantastic idea. Ms Allen said "If theatregoers want something more intimate than the West End then Malvern will he the place.





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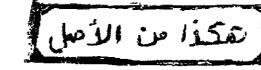
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Industrial fishing draining the North Sea



Environment Correspondent

nations - seven from the Eu-

North Sea nations cracked down restrict industrial fishing which

on industrial suction fishing sucks up small fish and beam yesterday, and moved a step trawlers which drag heavy closer towards banning the chains along the sea bed. dumping of huge quantities of Denmark's Environment mininto the heavily over-fished sea. At the two-day meeting in dustrial fisher, would respect Norway's second city, the eight

ister, Svend Auken, said that his country, the EU's biggest insuch bans. Roughly half the tonnage of fish caught in the North Sea consists of these small fish near the base of food chains, used or restricted where it was doing to make oil and livestock feed. These catches are not controlled

tem. The move is intended to by quota but the North Sea states said they should be.

Fisheries and environment ministers countries also agreed on an urgent search for ways of minimising discards - the throwing back of netted but unwanted fish - "including the possibility of a ban". Each year, hundreds of thou-

sands of tonnes of fish are dumped overboard from trawlers, a wasteful side effect of the EU's fish quotas. Germany said that for each kilo-

gram of plaice brought to shore. fishing too," he said. "The ecolaration was a sensible, prag-15kg of other fish and marine logical health of our seas is now matic solution. He was satisfied species were thrown back dead. the fundamental driver."

But Greenpeace, the World John Gummer, Britain's Sec-Wide Fund for Nature and the retary of State for the Envi-Royal Society for the Protection ronment, who has worked of Birds said: "The overfishing closely with environmental organisations, said that the deccontinues and the ministerial laration ministers had signed declaration remains fundameant big changes in fishing.

I want my children to be able mentally flawed." Germany also said too little had been

to eat North Sea cod and I want agreed. Robert Allan, chief executive there to be enough kept in he sea for fishermen's children to of the Scottish Fisherman's Federation, said the final decbe able to make a living from

matic solution. He was satisfied that it was a much weaker document than the first draft which opened the Bergen negotia-

tions over a year ago. But the EU's fisheries commissioner. Emma Bonino, warned: "There will be tough measures for the fishing communities and it will not be easy for their lives. The declaration said cuts in fishing fleets or other restraints on fishing beyond those agreed were necessary.

Nations move to ban 'suction' catches and dumping of freshly caught, dead fish in declaration now depends entirely on the decisions of Norway and all 15 European Union member states which together rule North Sea fishing. There was much argument during the talks about how far the seven North Sea states could go

in committing all 15 to action. Mr Gummer promised that when Britain was president of the European Union in 1998 it would review how fast the Bergen declaration was being implemented. And Germany said it would do the same when it held the presidency the year after.

Smugglers roll out barrel against the excise men

A SMUGGLER'S SONG

Five and twenty ponies Trotting through the dark -Brandy for the Parson, Baccy for the Clerk; Laces for a lady, letters for a spy, And watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by! Rudyard Kipling



True Gents; A regular at the Golden Galleon presents his membership card (left) as he latest batch of beer is carried from the brewery to be sold, duty-free, in the public bar

Kate Watson-Smyth

When the mist rolls in off the sea you can almost hear the thudding hooves of the smugglers' horses as they race up the valley carrying their precious hauls of contraband away from the prying eyes of the excise militia. Often the "Gentlemen" would with a common purpose. The beer lent of around 4p a pint, but in this is no longer smuggled on to the corner of the European Union the corner of East Sussex, known as Smuggiers' Valley. Now, 200 years on,

the countryside has hardly changed around the tiny hamlet of Exceat. near Newhaven. The alebouse is still there - and the fight against the militia. men is still passionately

A group of regulars at The Gold-en Galleon have formed a society premises, merely carried up to the taxman takes 25p. pub from the tiny brewery outside. The Gents are

but it is dispensed from behind the har - and what's more, it's duty free. The Gentlemen Entrepreneurs

Nil Taxation Society (Gents) was formed in protest at what members see as the excessive duty levied on beer by Her Majesty's Government. In France, drinkers pay the equiva-

The Gents are prepared to fight

to the hitter end. Well, almost - a building society account is holding the duty for which they might be liable, just in case. But Alan Edgar. secretary of the club, is confident it

"We buy the raw ingredients, not the alcohol, and then it is dispensed in the bar using a system of chits. So, as we're not selling beer, we don't

will not come to that.

have to pay duty. As far as the letter of the law is

concerned he would appear to have a point, although Customs and Excisc, who have been informed, are keeping a beady eye on the situation. It would seem that as the rules stand they can do nothing. But if too many people jump on the hand-wagon it could be in their interest to

test the case in court. And while Mr Edgar remains sanguine, all around him in the packed lunchtime bar, Gents (both

male and female) are waving their membership cards at the harman and drinking deep.
It costs £25 to join, and that en-

titles members to 25 pints. The money represents the cost of the raw ingredients, which they then own, This means they do not have to buy the beer for a second time once it has been brewed. Each time someone orders a pint, his card is clipped until he has finished his share. After a

corkage charge and "rent" to the brewery, beer works out at 62p a pint. Reg Vousden, whose family has lived in the Cuckmere Valley for gencrations and who is prohably descended from the original "Gentlemen" who so inspired Kipling. said: "It's so stopid that the French pay so little duty and we pay so much. We were told when we went into Europe that things would be equalised – otherwise what is the point?

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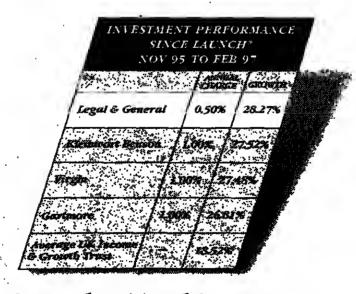


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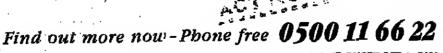
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We've given up: Columnists articulate Tory despair



Farewell you iudicious conditionals. Ever since Wirral, the media have been talking in red-hot indicative mood 7

> **Boris Johnson** 'Daily Telegraph'



60h come on lets just say it The Tones are heading for



Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Matthew Parris, the former third Conservative commentator in 48 hours to write-off the Torics chances of winning the

scribbling Tory classes is that the precedent, and wrong. It should

But they are already writing about the succession for the Tory leadership. In a call for John Major after defeat to stay Tory MP, yesterday became the on as a caretaker leader for 12 months, Mr Parris said: "A presumption is growing that if the Tories lose then John Major neral election. goes - quickly. The presumption is unfounded, almost without

ing for the Tories in Clwyd South, was the first to admit the writing was on the wall after the

Writing in the Daily Tele-graph under the headline, Mr Johnson said: "It's no longer if. It's when ... It's Labour will this, and Labour will that, and never mind the formality of the

"Having decided that Peter Mandelson will get a cabinet job, the real cool cats of punditry are already discussing Mr Blair's second reshuffle.

What an extraordinary position, when spring is here, and the weather so fine ... the Opposition appears predestined to He produced 20 events which

cluding public revulsion to Labour landslide. The voters might decide to vote Tory to pre-vent such a landslide, "Incredible, I know. But you can't take

the voters for granted." Simon Heffer, an unrelenting right-wing critic of John Ma-jor, and columnist in the Daily Mail, said on the BBC radio To-

He said it had been immoral for the government to put up taxes and for Mr Major to keep Britain in the European exchange rate mechanism before it was forced out on "Black Wednesday

"It cost, while it was in op-eration, a million jobs, 100,000

nesses failing, and no one took any responsibility for it. That was a great moral mistake in this Conservative Party's history, Mr Heffer said.

Mr Parris, writing in the Times, said: "Granted miracles can happen. Tony Blair might be eaten by a shark. The Archangel Gabriel might appear in Trafalgar Square on the

Jack Straw might read his pager the wrong way up and pledge himself to the slaughter of the first-born. Though any vacuum as perfect as new Labour remains capable at all times of imploding, the vacuum chamber replicated in steel. The chances of accident diminish as the

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Top judge attacks Howard's jury plan

Crime Correspondent

A new battlefront opened up yesterday in the war of words between the judiciary and the Home Secretary, as the country's most senior judge attacked inight, said: "I ... consider that proposals by Michael Howard it is an important guarantee of to abolish the right to elect tri- public acceptance of that

al by jury.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill,
the Lord Chief Justice, said the right was a "valuable principle and vital if the public was to believe in the fairness of the court system. He also warned that it could lead to injustice.

Mr Howard has clashed repeatedly with the judiciary during his controversial four year tenure at the Home Office. Lord Bingham's latest criti-

cism follow proposals by Mr Howard to speed up the criminal justice system. Lord Bingham, said that some of the changes "seem wrong in principle" and that he feared the reforms "might lead to error". Among the most controver-

sial suggestions is the removal of a defendants' automatic right to have a case dealt with by a jury for a series of offences that currently can be heard either by magistrates or in the Crown Among offences that can be

heard by magistrates or at a than minor crime, is not obligsion of an offensive weapon and gross indecency. An estimated 35,000 cases a year would be af- court trial being fairer than trifected by the move, which is in- als in magistrates' court, or jutended to result in more cases rors being more open-minded being dealt with by magistrates. than justices. It is a question of to avoid delays and extra ex- public perception.

The plan was condemned by the Law Society and the Bar Council, who believe it is a fundamental right.

Lord Bingham, speaking to unique role and function that a defendant, accused of other

In the dock

There's a property of the control of t

Crown Court are theft, posses- ed against his will to be tied by justices [magistrates].

"It is not a question of crown

Labour to axe rights quangos

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

crimination and create a pow-

law and senior Labour figures believe there should be one body to enforce its provisions.

Supporters of the plan point out that a single organisation would enjoy a higher profile and save expenditure. It is envisaged that the new "super quango" could incorporate the functions at the expense of the dilution of of the Data Protection Registrar existing rights under sex disand the Fair Employment Com- crimination legislation." mission in Northern Ireland, which combats discrimination on grounds of religion. The new body would also champion the take over as head of the new

tims of "ageism". Senior figures at the two ly as the existing system. There the solution to problems.

are also fears about job losses. Herman Ouseley, chair of the CRE, is to express cantion Labour is planning to abolish about the idea in the next edithe quangos on race and sex distion of his organisation's Conerful human rights commission he contends that while there is to police civil liberties. he contends that while there is a strong argument for a single a strong argument for a single A Blair administration would body, it would only enjoy his incorporate the European Consupport if it could be proved vention on Human Rights into that a single body enhanced the opportunities of the most dis-

advantaged sections of society. Elizabeth Hodder, deputy chairwoman of the EoC, said there would have to be a "comprehensive and objective" debate about a human rights commission: "It should not be

Desoite the EoC's cantion. Kamlesh Bahl, its chairwoman, would be uniquely placed to rights of the disabled and vic- commission because of her gender and Asian ethnic origin.

Her past association with biggest commissions are aware the Conservative Party is unof the plans, and there private likely to be a disadvantage. A misgivings that a "single rights Blair administration might be commission" would not pro- well disposed towards someone mote the aspirations of women who does not necessarily see inand ethnic minorities as strong- creased public expenditure as

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Election defeat not an option for faithful

The closest Tory loyalists could come to defeatism yesterday was to talk in hushed tones about the possibility of a hung result in the May election; with no overall majority in the Commons for John Major.

While former ministers were broadcasting their fears of clearcut defeat to the nation, the Conservative Central Council was assembling in Bath to be rallied to the flag by Brian Mawhinney, the Party Chairman.

But the council representatives - largely elderly officers of . sociations - needed little encouragement.

While MPs at Westminster were this week talking of the possibility, if not likelihood, of losing as many as 100 seats in the election, the party activists were lection, activities activi majority Mr Major woh in 1992.
One woman from South

Thanet said that while some people talked of a 60-seat Tory majority, she thought 20 was about right. "We'll get a majority, but it could be about the same as last time," she said, "It'll be a tight squeeze," she added.

A man from Hemel Hemp- more representative of the genstead echoed that view, saying.
"I imagine it'll be more tight this time. A majority of 100 would be nice but it's more likely to be and new runners would enter 10 or 20," A similar view came the race. There's plenty of time

much different from last time." But there was also talk of an even tighter result - though not defeat. "It wouldn't surprise me if it was a hung parliament," a man from Bath said. "It's not looking brilliant at the

But the Conservative grass roots activists refused even to consider the possibility that Mr Major might have to stand down, as leader, following

While John Biffen and Edwina Currie, two former ministers, were painting that scenario in radio broadcasts yesterday, the party faithful were busily uniting behind Mr Major, defying the faint hearts and deploring defeatist talk.

"He's a fine chap," said a man from Milton Keynes, when One man from Charnwood

Stephen Dorrell's new confancied his own MP, Mr Dorrell leader," he said. But the man from West Chehnsford was eral mood, "Older Cabinet ministers would go and new people would come into the Cabinet

Watts cranks up the party gaffe machine

Chief Political Companident

The culture of bar-room boreswhich has infected dinner parties in East Anglia appeared to be spreading to the Tory Party yesterday after a second minister caused outrage with off-thecuff remarks.

John Watts, the Transport. minister, appalled environ- comes that the evil scum of the mental activists by saying he would be happy to see the the innocent, and our children roads protester nicknamed Swampy "buried in concrete".

It came as the Prime Minis-

ter and Michael Howard,the Home Secretary, jumped to the defence of Home Office minister David Maclean who outraged liberal opinion by ap-pearing to bracket Roisin McAliskey, held in custody for a disgrace. Their news bulletins

quarters. Mr Watts said: "I couldn't care less what Swampy says. I would happily bury him

Mr Maclean, wrote to a 79-

year-old constituent, Judith Naylor of Appleby, Cumbria, who had asked for compassion for Ms McAliskey, while she was pregnant and in prison without trial. He replied: When the day IRA are no longer murdering are no longer tortured by the Hindley's of this world, then I am certain that when I no longer need all my compassion for the innocent, I shall be able to spare some for the perpe-

Mr Howard said: "The BBC's treatment of this story has been

of Mr Watts by Hull University students as he chatted after Mr Maclean's comments had a meeting at the Tory head- been "grotesque".

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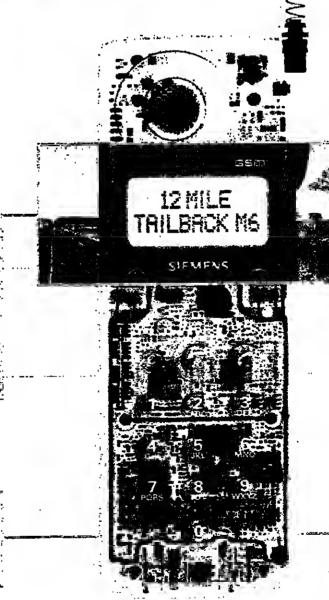


No laughing matter: Comic relief and red noses gave little mood for optimism among the Tory faithful at Bath yesterday

Photograph: David Ros

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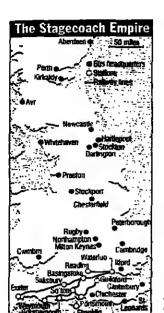


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Train of misfortune: Tough ultimatum from watchdog leaves South West Trains facing ultimate loss of its £270m business

Rail company faces £1m fine over cancelled service



Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Stagecoach, the company that runs the troubled train line. South West Trains, faces a £1m fine from the rail watchdog and ultimately the loss of the £270m business unless it improves its cancellation-hit service.

The company, which runs commuter trains from London to Hampshire and Surrey, was also fined £750,000 last month for wiping 39 trains from its schedule. John O'Brien, the franchising director, took the decision after "passengers suf-fered an unacceptable level of cancellations".

SWT has had a run of had fortune. First, work on a stretch of track took nine days to complete instead of a weekend. Secondly, the company shed 70 of its older, more experienced stantial fines if it ran less than

train drivers – forcing its to cut daily schedules. Managers also suggest that a small minority of The train firm has been drivers are unhappy with the new pay deal - accepted by the unions - and are wrecking timetables with a campaign of

"non co-operation". This will cut little ice with passengers. More than 100,000 rail commuters faced nightmare journeys home yesterday after trains were reduced in length and then slowed to a crawl because of a track fire. "Tve been delayed for three hours," said Louise Cronk, a 26-year-old planning consultant. "This has become a part of everyday life. I'm just fed up."

Mr O'Brien has a string of finumbers by 10 per cent. Opraf, the office of passenger franchising, will levy the fim fine nancial penalties he can impose under the contract with Stagecoach. In the case of SWI, if SWT breaches the limit again Stagecoach would face subthe franchise - which would cost

cls dip below 97.5 per cent.

called in to explain poor service levels twice in the first 12 rector of SWT, said the company was confident of "meeting the months under private owner-Opraf targets". "I think Opraf has made this announcement ... ship. The government rules mean if any operator breaches to show MPs it has teeth and the agreed service levels three times in three years, substantial knows what it is doing. We fines will be imposed. plan to have a full service run-

ning again by April 1," he said. Save Our Railways, the rail Managers first met civil servants last summer when worn pressure group, called for the hearings on some older carriages forced SWT to cut back service to be nationalised. "It on the length of trains. They was the first to fall into public were called in again to explain why service levels dipped below hands, the first to go wrong and should be the first back into the private sector," said national secretary Keith Bill. He added: "The public the 98.5 per cent limit in February after SWT cut driver

should be aware that a £1m fine for Stagecoach, who get £60m a year to run it will have as liter against an elephant."

Bus firm that took the fast route into trouble

Michael Harrison and Randeep Ramesh

When the bus company Stagecoach won the franchise to run South West Trains just over a vear ago, its chairman, Brian Souter, paid a visit to his new business. He was amazed to discover that SWT received 40,000 letters of complaint a year from passengers. The Stagecoach chairman said his bus compa-nies received virtually no such letters, adding: "We judge cus-tomer satisfaction by the number of bricks we get through the

The glass is still intact at SWTs offices in Blackhiars Road, a stone's throw from Waterloo station, but the brick-bats are flying thick and fast. How different it all seems to February last year, when Stagecoach became the first private company to take over one of the country's 25 rail franchises. John Watts. Minister for Rail-

historic announcement as excellent news for passengers". Stagecoach trumpeted plans to introduce more services: We firmly believe the route to success lies in attracting more people to our services and this

ways and Roads, greeted "this

means more, not less trains." Thirteen months on, the crisis SWT has run into is all too predictable, according to railway managers. Although Stage-coach was granted a generous subsidy deal – it will receive £368m over the life of the franchise - it had its work cut out to make a profit while surviving on a declining level of taxpayers' support. By 2003, the Gov-ernment says it will have saved

£243m by privatising SWT.
"With a service like SWT. there are limits to how much you can push revenues," says one railway executive. "It is difficult to grah a bigger share jof the market, so you have to rely

frustrated over trains that are cancelled or fall to finish their journey A chairman's chant "If you go down to Marsham Street, you'll never believe you go down to Marsham Street you're sure of a big The Porterbrook sale was never expected Poor Sir George is feeling rejected And Mr Watts will riever be re-elected!" Brian Souter, executive chairman, in a speech to rail ex-ecutives last September was reported to have suring this ditly to the tune of the Teddy Bears' Pionic

on the overall market growing. and that is not bappening. SWT decided to do the obvious thing - maximise fare income from its existing passengers, while cutting costs. Critics now say SWT is undermanaged. "The general prob-

lem is the lack of managers," says one observer. "The system is left to run itself." An example of SWT's management style was an attempt to appease irate customers by offering free travel for a day to compensate for the recent spate of cancellations. The offer was only intended to apply to SWT's lines but ticket offices began

message was sent out from

SWT headquarters instructing

staff to limit availability.

handing out free travel everywhere, including Eurostar services to Paris, until a frantic

Brighton route were moved to the Basingstoke depot. As the drivers there were unfamiliar with the route, SWT had to hire in "pilot drivers" from another private train operator. It would not have mattered had Stagecoach been able to treat SWT like one of its bus companies. Outside London, the bus industry is not only pri-vatised but deregulated. Oper-

ators can axe services and even

run buses for free to drive out

the opposition. In 1993, a

But the biggest cost-saving measure so far, and the cause

of SWT's current predicament, is the axeing of 70 drivers, a

tenth of the total, through a vol-

untary redundancy programme. At the same time, it decided to

begin shifting trains between

depots. For instance, those

operating on the Reading-to-

Rallroaded: Commuters and long-distance passengers to the south-west are

Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found the company's Southdown subsidiary charged uneconomic fares in Bognor Regis. In 1994, Mr Souter gave undertaking of "good behaviour" to the Director General of Fair Trading for two of Stagecoach's bus companies. Last year, after the MMC investigated Stagecoach's activities in Darlington, it concluded the company had acted m a manner which was "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

The City has bought the Stagecoach success story, so far. Mr Souter started the company with his sister, Ann Gloag 26 years ago, with £25,000 and two coaches. When the business was floated on the stock market in 1993 it was worth £100m. is now valued at £1.8bn.

But the acquisition of SWT and the equally controversial £825m takeover of the train leasing company Porterbrook. last summer, have come at a hefty price. As of last October, it had borrowings of £750m against shareholders' funds of

And there are signs of nerousness on the stock market. Shares are down from their year-high of 799p and yesterday lost another 23p, to 733.5p.

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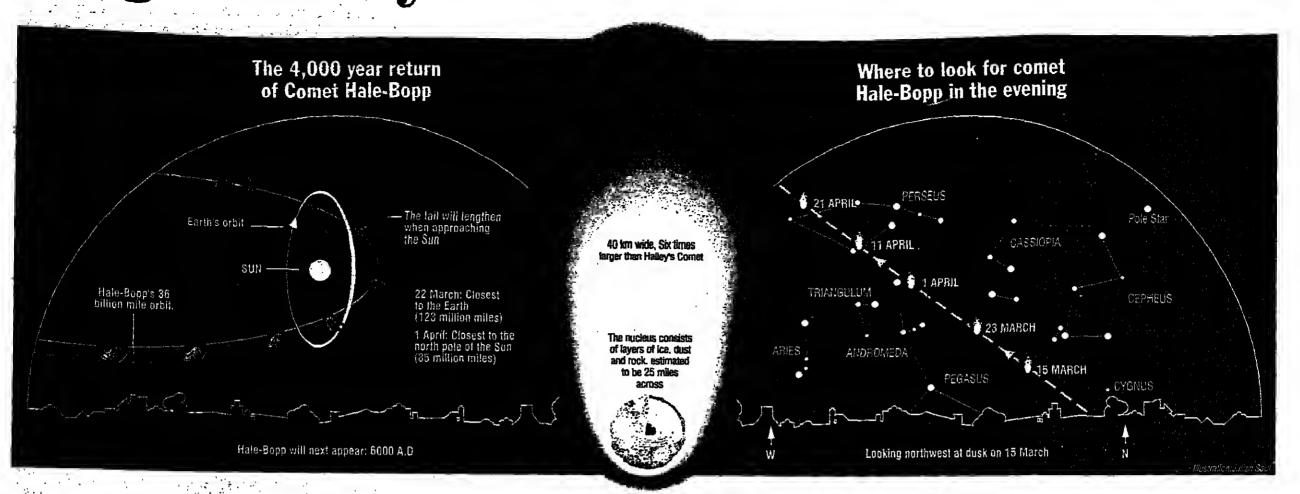
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news

Brightest way to chase the tail of the comet



Charles Arthur Science Editor

Astronomers say it is the brightest comet we will see for the rest of this century and from this evening it should be visible to anyone

with a pair of binoculars. Comet Hale-Bopp, a 40km-wide "dirty snowball" of mud and ice has already delighted astronomers by producing a. bright show that has far outdone two predecessors in the past 10 years, Halley's Comet in 1986 and Comer

Hyukatake last year. "It's like London buses," said Duncan Copp, of Mill Hill Observatory near Lon-don yesterday. You wait for years and then they all turn

Unlike its predecessors, which were hard to see without telescopes. Hale-Bopp should be easily visible after dark and before dawn with the naked eye, though Dr Copp suggests that those wanting a really good view should take a pair of binocu-. lars, as they offer a wider

"To view it in the evening,

view of the north-west horizon," he said. "You can see it at any time after twilight. It is an impressive sight, though people could be disappointed if they don't get away from lights." Just before sunrise it should be visible on the

north-east horizon. Those who do take the trouble will see the bright nucleus; made of a frozen conglomerate of ice and interstellar dust, and the tail, consisting of gases boiling off from the nucleus as it nears the sun on its 8,000-year round trip. For that reason. the tail points away from the sun, rather than in the direction of the comet's travel.

Its closest approach to the Earth will be on 22 March. when it will be 123 million miles away from us, further than we are from the sun, and its closest approach to the sun occurs on 1 April, when it will. be 85 million miles away. (The Earth is 93 million miles

from the sun)

Those keen to photograph the comet need a camera whose lens can be set to an should use fast film - at least

Flying heaps of ice which are key to the origins of life

To say that Comet Hale-Bopp is a "40km-long flying mountain of ice" would be to ignore the far wider importance of comets in the scheme of things. Recent studies suggest that comets similar to Hale-Bopp were responsible for giving the Earth its oceans, its atmosphere and

perhaps even life. The most detailed information concerning comets has come from spaceprobe studies of Comet Halley in 1986. These show that nearly half their mass consists of highly complex or-ganic molecules, similar in spectral properties to bacterial cells. The assortment of small-er organic molecules found in comets' gaseous envelopes results from the breakup of more complex organic structures.

It has recently become clear that the Earth's atmosphere could not have produced the organic building blocks needed to start life. These are now thought by a majority of planetary scientisis and geochemists to have come from comets.

Between 4,500 million years ago when the Earth was formed and 3,800 million years ago, our planet was pummelled by comets and meteorites, giving rise to the Hadean (hellish) cpoch. Towards the end of this cpoch, the oceans, the atmosphere and primitive life came into being, at almost exactly the same time. Moreover, there is evidence that the carbonaceous deposits associated with the Earth's oldest rocks - laid down during this period - may have had a biological origin.

Because the conditions prevailing on the Earth at this time were far too inhospitable for life to originate, it seems reasonable to think that fully fiedged microbial life may have been arriving along with the comets. Cometary life then took root on Earth at the first moment that favourable conditions evolved. The spectacular tail of a

comes, such as is now seen in

Hale-Bopp is more than a pretty light, writes **Professor** Chandra Wickramasinghe

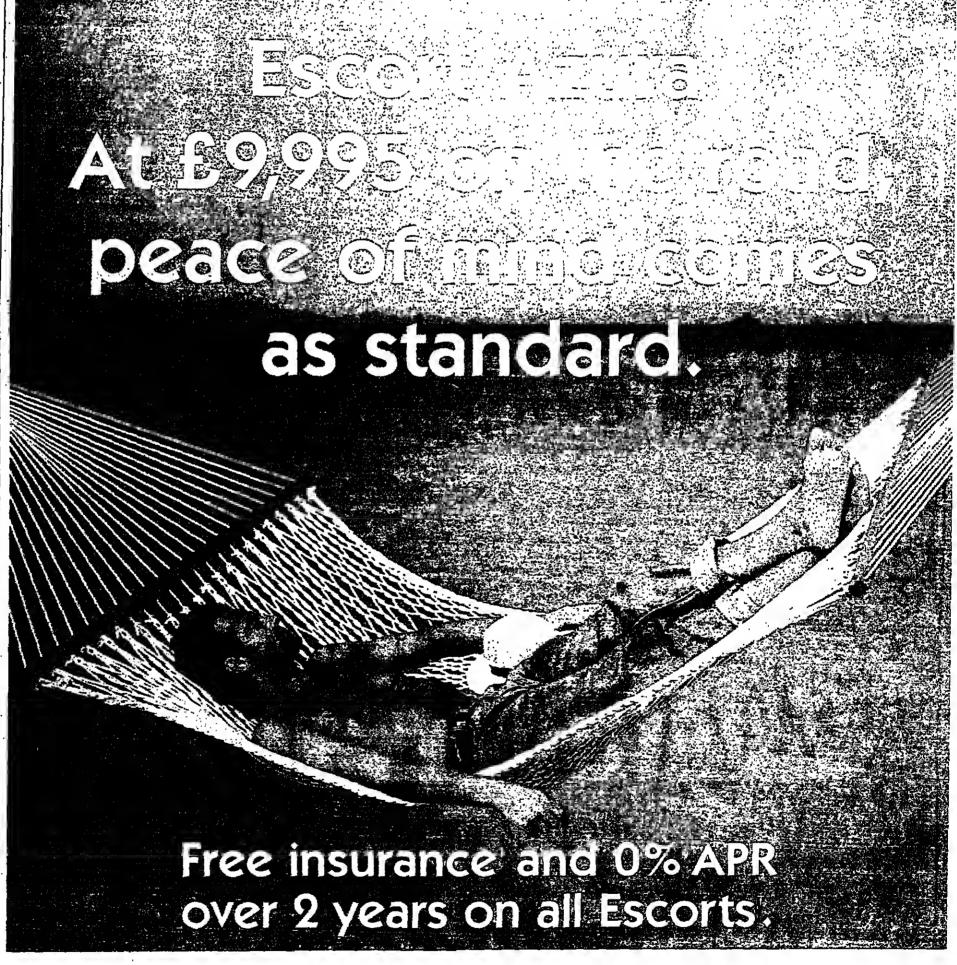
Comet Hale-Bopp, is caused by the release of dust particles em-bedded in the frozen crust which evaporates as it approaches the Sun. However, when dust production is seen at great distances from the Sun, a different explanation is re-quired. Comet Halley was still throwing out dust when it had receded beyond the orbit of Jupiter, and a similar release

as seen in Comet Hale-Bopp

in August 1995. A few months ago I, together with Professor Sir Fred Hoyle and microbiologist Professor David Lloyd of Cardiff University, argued that this remarkable behaviour could reasonably be explained if microbiology was at work in liquid domains beneath a hard-frozen crust. Bacterial activity can release large amounts of gases, creating high-pressure pockets and causing sporadic explosions of the overlying crust rather like the fermentation of

liquor in sealed jars. On the comet, the crust could sharter and then refreeze, leading to sporadic outbursts. When you watch the spectacular outbursts of Comet Hale-Bopp in the coming days, consider for a moment that you might be witnessing the process by which the fabric of life is transferred

throughout the Universe, Chandra Wickramasinghe is Professor of Applied Mathemat ics and Astronomy at the University of Wales in Cardiff. With Sir Fred Hoyle, he has written numerous book and papers dealing with the cosmic origins of life. Their latest book, Life on Mars? - the case for a cosmic heritage, is published nea month by CLin-





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Leaked letter widens schism in Jewry

Reformists accuse Chief Rabbi of no longer speaking for all Jews

Jan Burrell

The rift between the Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities in Britain dramatically deepened yesterday after it was disclosed that the Chief Rabbi. Dr Jonathan Sacks, had accused Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who died last August. of being a destroyer of Judaism.

The attack, in a leaked letter to a right-wing Orthodox Jewish leader, intensifies the row between the Orthodox tradition and the Reformists over Dr Sacks and his attitude to Rabbi Gryn, a Reformist.

Lası night. Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, spokesman for the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, called on Dr Sacks to renounce his title. Clearly, the Chief Rabhi no longer represents all Jews and speaks only for the Orthodox sector," he said.

"He no more represents Reform and liberal Jews than does the Archbishop of Canterbury represent Catholics and Methodists.

The acrimonious dispute followed Dr Sacks' non-attendance at the funeral of Rabbi



Sacks (left) and Rabbi Hugo Gryn, who died last year

grouping".

Gryn. which angered the Re-Padwa, the 90-year-old head of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew form movement, and his presence at a later memorial Congregations, that he was paying recognition to Rabbi Gryn. ceremony, which in turn caused outery among some Orthodox "not as a Reform rabbi hut as

a survivor of the Holocaust". In his letter, leaked to the Jewish Chronicle, Dr Sacks said Supporters of Rabbi Gryn, who was known to millions that his only reason for attendthrough his appearances on BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze and ing the memorial was to avoid giving the Reform movement a Thought for the Day on the Toreason for appointing its own day programme, said the letter chief rabbi. He said Rabbi Gryn could lead to large numbers of British Jews dissociating themwas one of "those who destroy the faith" as part of a "false selves from the Chief Rabbi. Although Dr Sacks is techni-He assured Dayan Chanoch cally the Chief Rabbi only of the



Battle of orthodoxies: The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan

United Synagogues, the main Orthodox group, he is seen by many Jews and non-Jews as the leader of British Jewry. Dr Sacks described the leak-

ing of his "Not for Publication" letter, which was written in Hebrew, as a "scandalous betrayal" and attempted a damage limitation exercise by writing an explanation of the context of the letter in the Jewish Chronicle. He praised Rabbi Gryn as "a

man of courage and deep humanity", but stopped shart of retracting his attacks on his religious work.

Dr Sacks called on all Anglo-Jewish leaders to join in a Coalition for Peace in the Community to prevent disunity. "We must now call a halt to the debate over Hugo Gryn. May he be allowed to rest in peace, and may we, at last, learn to live in peace," he said.

He issued a seven-point list of principles for mutual respect between Jews, calling on them to work together on matters affecting them all - such as fighting anti-Semitism. remembering the Holocaust and improving relations with other faiths such as Christianity and

Last night there was much den agenda of the person re-sponsible for the leaking. Dr Sacks would only say:

The leak was a hreach of confidence. It flouted the Jewish laws of privacy. It was intended to destroy the relationships of trust essential to communal

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But Matthew Calman, the editor of London Jewish News, sug-gested the leak was a deliberate "trap" laid for reformists, in or-

der to re-open the divide in the

He said: "We have to ask who leaked this letter and why? The answer to that question is that Jonathan Sacks has made enormous strides towards reconciliation among the different movements in Anglo-Jewry over the last five years.

The people who leaked this letter are his right-wing critics who despise Rabbi Romain and Reform. It is an attempt to destroy the kind of reconciliation which I know Rabbi Romain and his colleagues are working for."

Yesterday, the "trap" appeared to have worked. In a joint statement the British leaders of Reform Judaism called for a rethink of the post of Chief Rabbi. The statement said: "It seems that, constantly, the Chief Rabhinate is forced into two conversations, embodying two sets of language and two messages tailored to the respective recipients. This is simply not consonant with a community of trust

and integrity.

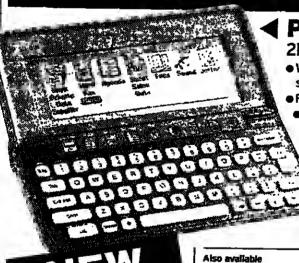
"He says that his whole purpose is to 'gain a victory' over



'lew praying in the synagogue on Yom Kippur' by Mauricy Gottlieb, from Jewish Art, to be published in May by Harry

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Rapists lose right to quiz victims

ian Burrell

Alleged rapists who defend hemselves will lose the automatic right to cross-examine their victims under plans aunounced yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

The move is almed at ending the "double rape" of a victim, who is forced to relive her experience in minute detail by answering questions posed by the attacker in open court.

It follows the Old Bailey

case last summer of Julia Ma-son, who suffered six traumatic days of court-room interrogation by the man who raped her twice. The case caused a pub-Mr Howard said: "I think it is right that the courts should

have the discretion, where occessary, to protect such vulnerable victims." It is proposed that judges would be given discretion to stop defendants who are rep-resenting themselves in court

from personally cross-examin-

ing victims of rape and other

offences. Instead, cross-exam-

ination could only be conduct-

ed by a representative of the de-The move follows outrage

that Mrs Mason, 34, had to face prolonged interrogation by her attacker, Ralston Edwards, who turned up in court in the same clothes he wore oo the night of the rape, Edwards, who had raped before, was given two life sentences for the attack.

"He was reliving the rape said Mrs Mason after the trial. "No other woman should go through this again."

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She waived her right to anooymity to press for the law to be changed and complained to the European Commission of Human Rights about her treatquestions about whether I wore any underwear, and implying he knew where my family she said. "It was as if I had been raped once by Edwards, and again by the British judicial

Victim Support yesterday welcomed the plans. "Too many women don't report sex crimes because they fear the ordeal that faces them if they do," Paul Collins, its spokesman, said.



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West faces

military

dilemma

as Albania

fragments

Western powers found themselves increasingly embroiled in Albania's anarchy yesterday as

gunmen fired on US, German

and Italian military forces try-

ing to rescue Western resi-

deuts. The United States was

forced to suspend its evacuation efforts after two US Marine he-

licopters were fired on from the ground while attempting to take American nationals to

Gunmen also fired shots from a police van at German

troops arriving at a military airport by helicopter to bring

out stranded Western citizens. The Germans shot back in what

was believed to be the first time German soldiers have

used weapons in anger abroad

Amid the spreading chaos, and with almost nobody notic-

ing, Sali Berisha effectively ceased to be president of Albania yesterday. With the whole country seemingly clamouring

for his departure and all state

authority supplanted by gangs

of armed men, the interna-

tional community chose to leave

him languishing alone in his

palace and tried instead to bro-

ker a solution to the crisis with

Bashkim Fino, his newly ap-pointed prime minister.

Mr Fino and ministers spent

the day in talks on board an Ital-

ian warship with Franz Vranitzky, the former Austrian chancellor and special envoy for

the Organisation for Security

and Cooperation in Europe,

and begged the international

Western officials said they might.

community to intervene.

Emma Daly

consumed the streets of Tirana. Nobody is in charge of the Al-

banian capital, and random gunmen are driving up and down the city's streets, firing into

the air. And yet, there seems to be no air of panic. There is no

civil war here, nor is there like-

ly to be: it is more like a popu-

lar revolt against a corrupt leadership, fuelled both by fear

and by a pleaniful supply of

able, mostly apples and oranges on sale at a few stalls in the mar-

ket. There were long queues at

the few bakeries which opened

yesterday; many were closed ow-

ing to a shortage of flour, following the sacking of Tirana's

main flour depot on Thursday,

when some food stores were

Riza Lahi, a retired military

pilot, was loaded down with

plastic bags containing huge

hunks of fets and yellow cheese,

I just spent all the money I had

in my pocket," he said. "I love

my motherland, and I don't

want to leave, but I'm waiting

to see what happens to the po-

Dozens of his compatriots,

diplomatic compound, where

US Marines organised the evac-

uation by helicopter of about

300 foreigners, mostly Ameri-

cans, often to the sound of

gun-fire. The airlift was sus-

pended in the afternoon after

a helicopter was hit by an anti-

aircraft missile. Westerners

lined up in life-jackets and hel-

mets to board the helicopters

ent down from the Nato force

htical situation.

"I didn't even ask the prices.

olives, frozen hamburgers.

Residents of Tirana were out. early yesterday morning, stock-piling whatever food was avail-

Tirana

will report that there is no alternative as far as I can see. The decision has to be taken very

eration has been excluded by

Nato, the US and the Western

European Union, and any sub-

sequent action is likely to be

promoted by individual coun-tries, not international institu-

tions. "First we must have a

government that exercises real "And secondly, any intervention must have the agree-ment of all parties in Albania.

including the rebel commanders in Vlora and elsewhere. But

we're a long way from fulfilling either condition," Italy's deputy

foreign minister, Piero Fassino,

Diplomats said they saw Mr.

Fmo, a member of the Socialist Party, which is bitterly op-

posed to Mr Berisha, as

negotiations with the rebel com-

manders who have ousted the

state in cities across the coun-

is not clear if there will be any

political authority left at all

and then we will have to rethink our strategy from scratch," one

European diplomatic source

One European diplomatic source said: "Berisha has been

"As far we are concerned,

Fino is the last resort and if he

doesn't work out it is not clear

Now all the people

have guns, they will

never give them up'

completely sidelined.

ommunity to intervene. there will be any political au-Mr Vranitzky and other thority left at all."

"If Fino doesn't work out, it

Albania's last hope.



Ose rig victim















19-month-old son Jimmy. Why were they leaving? "Because her mother was hit in the bead by A currously muted chaos has a bullet yesterday and my broth-consumed the streets of Tirana. er-in-law was hit in the face by a bullet today," Mr Durham said succinctly. Neither was badly wounded,

but it was enough to persuade the Durbans to accept the help

of the cavalry.

By 9am, Tirana's two hospitals had received nine dead and 159 wounded by gunfire, By 11am, the death toll had risen by two, and during a 15-minute visit to one emergency ward, two men were rushed in with bullet

Tonin Pellumbi was at home in Laprake, a Tirana suburb, when a bullet struck just above his hip. "He was hit inside the

6 There is no civil war here, more a revolt fuelled by a huge supply of weaponry 7

house," said Vladimir Goga, the neighbour who drove Mr Pel-lumbi to hospital. "It's terrible, however, were lining up outside the manicared lawns of the US too many people are shooting. especially in this area. Nobody can leave their house. Everyone is afraid, and there is so much

> Mr Pellumbi moaned in pain as doctors extracted the bullet. He was sent home soon after with no real damage done. Another young man had meanwhile been admitted, hit in the thigh as he sat at home chatting

to a neighbour: In the grounds of the hospital, spent carridges marked Bob Durham and his Alban-ian wife Eva stood with their man firing at will in the city.

Down the road, three loose horses nosed through a rubbish bin, ignored by passers-by; 50 yards away, a man fired his Kalashnikov into the air. Noone turned a hair. Opposite the head-quarters of the Shik secret police, soldiers massed at a base containing six tanks. We approached the gate. Not un-

expectedly, the guard leapt up, pointed his rifle and screamed

at us to leave the area. We did It was the same at the presidential palace, where plain-clothes gunnen and soldiers guarded Mr Berisha's office. They were very edgy. By late af-ternoon, the foreign press was comprehensively confused. A phalanx of television cameras and reporters stood in the main boulevard leading to Skenderbeg Square as two police Armed Personnel Carriers, accompanied by carloads of gun-men, drove up and down, firing

in the air. The gunmen flashed the oc-casional V-sign, symbol of the ruling Democratic Party, but it was not clear if they were trying to protect the President, intimidate the opposition Prime Minister, or perform for the cameras. About 100 soldiers ran into the presidential compound but, again, we had no idea why.

No one has any control, said Kastor, a secret policeman who had abandoned all hope in Albania and in the regime be served; he was standing outside the American diplomatic compound, trying to get seats on the US airlift. He proffered his passport, complete with one new and two used American visas. He had been to the US. he said, for "training as special

His wife was articulate, and depressed. "This war situation is terrible - I want my children to live, not to die," she said.

"I don't see a future bere, and now all the people have guns. And knowing the Albanian mentality, they will never give



المكذا من الأصل

The purpose of Mr Vran-itzky's mission, they said, was to give him every possible politi-cal support and then sponsor ing. His children have already left for Italy, as has his unpop-Safet Zhulali. Mr Fassino said it was by no means certain they

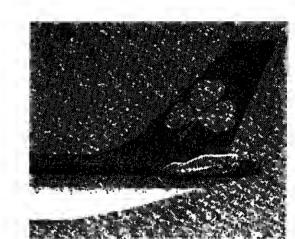
would be offered asylum. Aid agencies prepared to send emergency supplies but said the anarchy was hindering their efforts. "There is definitely a need for emergency food and medical help," said Michael Kleiner, of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Red Cross offices and stores across Albania have been burned down and looted.
The United Nations evacu-

ated most of its staff out of the As for Mr Berisha, he told a country. Two officials from the consider some kind of policing. French reporter yesterday that UN Children's Fund remained operation to round up the he had no intention of resign behind to try to co-ordinate UN UN Children's Fund remained rebels' weapons, but only under ing. But the pressure on him to aid efforts but could not eval-strict conditions. Mr Vranitzky leave the country, or face a pos-said he saw no alternative to sible public lynching, was grow-cause of the chaos.

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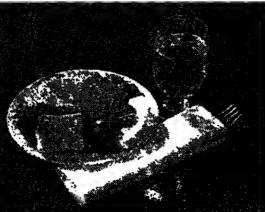






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With Sten guns and sovereigns Britain and US saved Iran's throne for the Shah

Mnnty Woodhnuse personally flew the guns into Iran from Baghdad aboard an RAF aircraft to prepare for war with the Soviet Uninn. He bought Iranian "riyals" for sovereigns and at a secret rendezvous in the Tehran suburbs - handed the cash to one of two mysterious Iranian brothers to help fi-

nance plans for the overthrow of Mohamed Mossadeq. To this day, Operation Boot the original British intelligence plot to get rid of the democratically elected Mossadeq and re-store the Shah of Iran to his throne in 1953 - fascinates Colonel Monty Woodhouse. now 79 but with a mind as alert as that of a man half his age.
"I've sometimes been told that I was responsible for opening the door to the ayatollahs," he says. "But we delayed Khomeini's return to Tehran by a quarter of a ceptury.

The Iran of the early Fifties had some remarkable parallels with the revolution of 1979. The young Shah - "a nice, rather weak man ... always waiting to be advised", in Col Wood-house's words - was dominated

← We delayed Khomeini's return to Tehran by a quarter of a century \supset

by his sister Ashraf but opposed by a vocal opposition that included Ayatollah Sayed Abolghassem Kashani, an influential Shijie cleric, the communist Tudeh party and the nationalists led by the 70-year old landowner Mossadeq. His government voted to nationalise the Angle-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) whose profits were safeguarded by Londoo executives whom Col Woodhouse now describes as "stupid, boring, pigoeaded and tiresome".

ln August 1951, Monty Woodhouse arrived at the British embassy in Tehran, the imposing pseudo-Greek edi-fice in which Churcbill, Stalin and Roosevelt bad met to decide the post-war world only



In the third of a series of articles. Robert Fisk writes about the fall of prime minister Mossadeg

eight years earlier. "My em-ployers were SIS [Secret Intelligence Service] but my cover was the Foreign Office and I was on the embassy staff," Wood-house says. "I think I was officially called 'information

The Central Intelligence Agency's Middle East chief, Kim Roosevelt - grandson of Theodore - would finally see the plot to fruition, organising the Tehran street mobs and the Iranian army against Mossad-eq. But Col Woodhouse, fresh from his role as a Special Operations Executive officer in German-occupied Greece, was an enthusiastic proponent of Operation Boot and eagerly sold the idea to the Americans as a shield against Soviet subversion. "When we knew what the prejudices of our collaborators were, we played all the more on these prejudices." Woodhouse admits in his retirement bome in Oxford.

When Mossadeq was about to break diplomatic relations with Britain in the summer of 1952 - and wheo Iran seemed to be on the verge of anarchy - Col Woodhouse was ordered to arm tribal leaders in northern Iran who could be relied on to oppose a possible Soviet invasion.

'I collected the light arms in an RAF plane from Hahbaniyah, an RAF station in Iraq, and eventually landed at Tehran after losing our way over the Zagros mouotains. They were mostly rifles and Sten guns. We drove north in a truck, avoiding check-points by using hy-roads. Getting stopped was the sort of thing one never thinks about. We buried the weapons - I think my underlings dug the holes. And



Mohamed Mossadeq, centre, at his trial on 9 November 1953 (Photograph: Popperfoto). Top right, Col Woodhouse; right, Allen Dulles, CIA director

Mossadeq as prime minister.

"He was ordered by the Shah's

still hidden somewhere in norththe assumption that war would break out with the Soviet

At this time, the plot to over-throw Mossadeq was in the hands of a British embassy official called Robin Zaehner later Professor of Eastern Religions at Oxford. Zaehner, who is oow dead, had cultivated two wealthy Iranian merchaots, known as "the Brothers", each of wbom had worked against German influence in Iran during the Second

World War. When the British were about to be thrown out of Iran, Col Woodhouse turned to Roger Goiran, the Tehran CIA station chief. "He was a really admirable colleague. He came from a French family, was bilingual, exfor all I know these weapons are tremely intelligent and likable

and had a charming wife and we ern Iran, It was all predicated oo all got on famously together; be was an invahiable ally to me when Mossadeq was throwing us out because I was able to hand on to him the contacts I had."

Col Woodhouse visited Washington after Eisenhower's presidential election victory and outlined his plan to the Americans: Operation Boot was to use the Brothers and an organisation of disenchanted army and police officers, parliameotary deputies, mullahs, editors and mob leaders to seize control of Tehran while tribal leaders would take over major cities, oo doubt with the weapons the colooel had dumped in oorthern Iran.

Despite initial reluctance by the United States, Mossadeq's rejection of a set of Anglo-American proposals to solve the oil dispute - and the danger which he represented to the 'firman' to leave. He called out Shah - sealed his fate. While his own thugs and be caused all Kim Roosevelt travelled sethe bloodbath. Our lot didn't cretly to Iran, Col Woodhouse they behaved according to plan. met with Princess Ashraf in What if we'd done nothing?

Switzerland, she travelled to It's a very difficult question to Tehran to try and persuade her answer. What would relations have been between Mossadeo and the mullahs? Things would brother that he should remain on his throne. A second emishave got steadily worse. There sary to visit the Shah with the same message was Brigadier would bave been no restoration General Norman Shwarzkopf, of BP - or AIOC as It theo was. father of the man who would lat-And the Shah would have been er command US forces against overthrown immediately, in-Iraq in 1991. After Roosevelt stead of 35 years later. "It's quite remarkable that a himself spoke to the Shah, the latter issued a decree dismissing

quarter of a century passed betweeo Operation Boot and the Col Woodhouse was in Japan when he heard how the mobs fall of the Shah. In the end, it was Khomeini who came out on took to the streets against top - but oot until years later. Mossadeq and of how the sub-I suppose some better use could sequeot street fighting cost the lives of 300 people. "It was all Mossadeq's fault," he says now. have been made of the time that

Col Woodbouse was already in retirement when the Islam-

Congress protests at China's rising crime

Teresa Poole

China's normally compliant parliament yesterday barked back, emboldened by widespread public dissatisfaction with crime and corruption. Delegates to the National People's Congress (NPC) registered their biggest ever protest vote when 40 per cent did not support the annual report of China's top prosecutor, Zhang Siqing, who just days earlier had promised "to get to the bottom" of cases involving any corrupt officials.

When the result was displayed on the electronic screen in the Great Hall of the People a wave of murmuring swept through the 2,720 delegates as they read the voting figures.

The unprecedented show of displeasure at the government's inability to tackle rising crime and corruption was also evident in the vote on the annual work report from the president of the Supreme People's Court, Ren Jianxin, with one-third of delegates withholding their sup-port. As China embarks on the post-Deng Xiaoping era, crime and corruption often top surveys of public complaints.

The NPC delegates vote by pressing buttons which give them a choice of voting for, against or abstaining, a number prefer to show their reluctance by not pressing any button at all. It is widely assumed that the government has the power to de-termine how any delegate voted on any particular vote. In yesterday's vote on the Supreme People's Procuratorate report, 1,621 were in favour, 675 against, 390 abstained, and 34 did not vote at all.

Western burnan rights campaigners might not be comfortable with the sentiments behind yesterday's anti-crime votes. Since April last year, China has been in the grip of the "Strike Hard" anticrime campaign, which saw a 17 per cent increase in arrests, worryingly swift convictions, and an unknown oumber of executions. Yet, many NPC delegates this year argued in favour of tougher penalties and a wider use of capital punishment, and were disappointed not to succeed.

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Shame is gangsters' deadliest weapon

ic revolution changed Iran for-

ever. "I felt very depressed," he

says. "I felt that the work we had

done was wasted, that a sort of

complacency had taken over

once the Shah bad been re-

stored. Things were taken for

Cut off from the intelligence

world in which he once lived,

Colonel Woodhouse, who was

elected Tory MP for Oxford in

1959, is oow translating a work

of modern Greek history by his

late wartime friend Panayotis

Kanellopoulos. But he has not

forgotten what Allen Dulles, the

CIA director, said to him on his

return to Washingtoo in 1953.

laid when you were here last

time!" he told Woodhouse. It

was the first such operation car-

ried out by the Americans in the

Cold War - and the last by the

That was a nice little egg you

granted too easily."

Once a year, the presidents and board members of Japan's biggest companies submit themselves to an awful torment. Every June these unhappy people, whose decisions affect the lives of workers and consumers all over the world, are forced to present themselves publicly and - would you believe it? - answer questions from their shareholders

The ordeal of the annual shareholders' meeting (sokai, in Japanese) is usually finished in double-quick time, although this is by no means guaranteed.

Sometimes, borror of hor-rors, a shareholder may ask an awkward or searching ques-tion, or even express dissatisfaction with the hoard's performance. Worst of all, pro-fessional troublemakers set out deliberately to embarrass the mortified executives. They shoul, they refuse to sit down, they make awkward allegations. Faced with this bumiliating

prospect, the MDs and CEOs do what any sensitive captains of industry would do: they buy off the trouble-makers, for millions of pounds every year.

The corporate blackmailers are called sokuiya, and in the last week their extraordinary place in Japanese corporate life has been dramatically exposed. Yes-terday, the president of Nomura, the world's biggest securities house, resigned to take responsibility for a scandal in which the company apparently channelled hundreds of millions of yen to a company with connections to a former extortionist.

Three days before, police arrested two executives of a leading food company, Ajicomoto, for allegedly paying some balf a million pounds a year to protect their president from embarrassing questions.

These are strikingly large sums for what is, after all, only a shareholders' meeting. In the past, sokaiya have punished companies who refuse to pay up by a variety of means.

In 1982, a Sony shareholders' meeting was prolonged for thirteen hours by fillibusters; three years ago the president of Puji Film had bottles thrown at him by a spurned sokaiya. But these cases are extreme, as the case

Japanese bosses will pay to avoid humiliation, writes Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo

of Ajinomoto demonstrates. Typically, the shareholders' meeting lasted just half an hour. In 1995, apparently because of a failure to pay off sokalya, it went on for over an hour. However uncomfortable, those extra forty minutes saved the company 100 million yeo (£520,000).

The sokaiya are a uniquely Japanese institution, a product

both of history and of the almost medieval importance of form in even the most modern companies. Incideots which would be routine at European or American shareholders' meetings stroppy shareholders, aggressive heckling – are such anathema to the public image of corporations that they are prepared to buy peace and quiet.

anese companies attach a great deal of importance to

maintaining the dignity of their senior management," says Raisuke Miyawaki, a retired senior policeman, who now advises companies on how to deal with gangsters. "Actually, the bosses are a bit timid: if they are seen to make a mistake during the meeting, it's very shaming to them, so they want it to be as short as possible so that no one has a chance to ask

In an attempt to frustrate the racketeers, companies have tak-eo to holding their shareholders' meetings at the same time. These tactics have apparently worked: according to the police, there are about 1000 sokatya, compared to nearly 7,000 before the change in the law. But since the passing of the anti-racketeering laws their methods have become both more ingenious and more brutal.

Three years ago, a Fuji Film executive responsible for the annual general meeting, ran into trouble with a group of sokaiya. Soon after, he was found dead, stabled to death with a

samurai dagger. Nommra chief goes, page 22



حكة امن الأصل

to a Pocifi

Trader feels jagged edge of Russia's metals market

المكذا من الأصل

Moscow

You have a mighty London-based metals trading interest and a very irate Russian Interior Minister, Add to the mix, a contest over billions in potential profits, the shadow of organised crime, and suspicions of a Kremlin plot involving Boris Yeltsin's ex-bodyguard, and you have the picture. Russia's latest industrial

scandal lacks nothing in intrigue.

The group is Trans-World Metals. which has in the last six years quietly built itself into the world's third largest aluminium producer by ac-

quiring commol of several of the huge, nious dispute which has set the combined largely moribund. Russian pany against powerful elements with smelters where the Soviet Union in Russian officialdom. used to churn out metal for missiles

and aircraft.
The UK-based firm's willingness to ular murders, and where fortunes are quickly be made and lost - has given it sizeable stakes in smelters which account for nearly 40 per cent of the country's aluminum cuput. These in-clude the world's largest at Bratsk in Siberia. This activity has generated "stands on the verge of seeing all our vast profits for Trans-World, but now investments and achievements dethe future is clouded by an acrimo- stroyed" by "a craven, political

Last week, gricvances erupted into the open when the group's chairman, David Reuben, published brave the perilous waters of Russia's an open letter in the Wall Suren Jourmetals industry - which has seen reg-nal, and elsewhere, addressed to the US Vice-President, Al Gore, and Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

In it he complained that, despite ploughing hundreds of millions of dollars into Russia, the group now "stands on the verge of seeing all our

power play. Russian-style". There operating in a country which still has was, he continued, a move led by the strong protective instincts. Russian Interior Ministry and "renegade banks" to "re-privatise" aluminium enterprises.

A particular target of his coming to restore state control of the national aluminium industry. Such a move, Mr Reuben's letter warned, would cause the international market for investment in Russia to dry

However, this is more than a cautionary tale about foreign interests

Beneath the surface there is a complex, but crucial, sub-plot. For the last few weeks, some of the Russian mass media - much of which is plaint was General Anatoly Ku- under official influence - have folikov, Russia's hard-line Interior cused on alleged crime in the alu-Minister, whom he accuses of want- minium industry. The issue has been championed by General Kulikov. who has made allegations of embezzlement and bribery about a company with links to Trans-World - although it should be noted that Trans-World has repeatedly stated

that it has done nothing wrong.

It is believed that the motive for

dustry includes a political dimension -namely, to discredit Boris Yeltsin's security chief, Alexander Korzhakov, and one of his former deputy prime ministers, Oleg Soskovets. Both men

were fired last year. Since his ousting, Mr Korzhakov, an enemy of the Kremlin and Mr an attempt to stop Mr Lebed turn-Chubais. He is loosely allied to Alexander Lebed, the ex-general who is often named as the favourile to win

such strong official interest in the in- also sunt packing - following a row with General Kulikov.

According to NTV's flagship current affairs programme, liogi, ele-ments in the aluminium industry financed Mr Lebed's brother. Alexei, in a successful bid to become a regional governor. The Interior Mina former KGB officer with close ties ister's assault on the industry - or so to the metals industry, has become the theory runs - is therefore partly

ing to the same golden goose. It is a murky husiness, shot through with speculation and political gamesthe presidency next time. After a manship, It seems likely to fester on. brief stint as Mr Yeltsin's national se- aggravating international relations curity adviser last year. Mr Lebed was and jeopardising jobs and incomes.

Border deaths expose gulf in Middle East

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

It was meant to be a symbol of peace: 250 acres of orchards and fields on the Jordan river, protected by Jordanian soldiers, butfreely visited by Israeli farmers and tourists. As visitors enjoyed the bucolic vista theywould be reminded by the abandoned concrete bunkers and old nor has he any history of psyminefields of an earlier, more violent period in the relations demian, married with three between Israel and Jordan.

It must have seemed a neat solution to diplomats and officials at the time of the signing murders because of the furious
of the peace treaty between the exchange between Jordan and two countries in 1994, Jordan Israel earlier in the week. King won back sovereignty over the Hussein accused Benjamin Nepatch of land at Naharim/Baqura, where the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers meet. In return the Jordanians recognised blood." Yesterday An Israeli Israel's "private land ownership" columnist suggested a report, rights and property rights" for a renewable period of 25 years.

Just how distant this com-promise was from the real world of the Middle East became al family, might have led to the clear this week when Ahmed, gumman's attack. Moussa Mustafa, a driver in the Jordanian tank corps, shot dead seven Israeli girls on a school-outing. The "island of peace" became a death-trap. Teachers on the school bus said other Jor-

danian soldiers did not shoot at the gunman and only tackled

The ordinariness of Ahmed Moussa Mustafa suggests his action was the product of increasingly poisonous relations between Israel and Jordan, not of the mental derangement of one man. He is neither a Pales tinian nor a devont Muslim chological problems. He is a Jorchildren, from a village near the northern city of the Irbid.

tanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, of leading Arabs and Israelis "towards an abyss of since denied, that Mr Netangahu had attributed this outburst to a history of mental instability in the Jordanian roy-

gumnan's attack The peace treaty was meant rael affects Jordan. King Husto mark a transformation in sem could not have signed the Middle East politics. King Hussein abandoned Iraq as his years ago if Mr Arafat had not strategic ally and looked to Issigned the Oslo accords in 1993. strategic ally and looked to Is signed the Oslo accords in 1993, rael and the US. He wanted po-Now this process is going into

forgiveness for \$700m (£430m) debts, from Washington in return for the treaty. He wanted to insure himself, through American and Israeli friendship, against any threat to his monar-

chy emanating from an emerg-

ing Palestinian state. Three years later, the diplo-matic map looks different. The King and the Jordanian political leadership has acquired an almost visceral hatred of Mr Netanyahu. Dislike has grown ever since the Israeli leader failed to tell Jordan of his plan to open a tunnel in Jerusalem last year, which led to 61 Palestinian and 15 Israeli deaths. When Mr Netanyahu refused permission for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to fly from Amman to Gaza this month King Hus-

sein slammed the phone down. But there is more to this than Mr Netanyahu's failings. King Hussein rules as many Palestinians, more than 2 million, in Jordan as there are Palestinians m the West Bank and Gaza. Any strain between the latter and Ispeace treaty with Israel three



Israeli girls, who were in the group that was attacked on the 'Island of peace', reading about the death of their friends

reverse. A crisis between Israel and Mr Arafat means a crisis with Jordan. King Hussein was the only Arab leader to cultivate Mr Netanyahu before the last election, but the Israeli Prime Minister is careless of

trouble, But Jordan is closer to the US than it was in 1994 in the wake of the Gulf war. Opposition to Israel in the Arab world is also more popular at every level than in the past.

It is also easier for Jordan to past obligations. Probably be get along with the Palestinian took King Hussein for granted, thinking him too weak to cause proved with Mr Arafat because the cause of tension.

It is easy enough to blame or lesser extent, to the implementation of the Oslo accords.

It is easy enough to blame mentation of the Oslo accords.

so strong be no longer needs to worry that Jordan wants to return there. Palestinian fear that Jordan would re-establish its rule on the West Bank, which it held before 1967, was a con-

many Israelis will hold him responsible for their lives becoming more insecure. After all, last year he won the election by promising "peace with security". But a majority of Israelis voted

his grip on the West Bank is now wake of the Naharim massacre Peace with Jordan was popular among Israelis because they thought no price had to be paid for it. Few realised that if a Palestinian state was denied and the occupation of the West Bank was not ended, then the hasis for peace with the Jorda-It is easy enough to blame or lesser extent, to the imple- nians as well as the Palestinians

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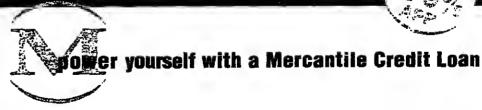
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international

A view of the world coloured by fear of what the next century will bring

The man at the hus-stop started talking to me, something almost unheard of in Paris. I had Clare with me and he tald me that he had a small daughter of his own. He had also lived ahroad, confirming my wife's thenry that the French (Parisians anyway) are much nicer when they have been sub-jected to fireign influences. He was a specialist in tax avoidance who had lived in

Britain, Africa and Washington. He spoke interestingly and pes-simistically about the problems of the French economy. Times were hard hut would get worse.

Since I had also lived in Washington, I asked whether he had enjoyed being there. 'Ah, non, it was much too coloured for me," he said. Seeing my negative facial sign-language, he added: "In any case, it was too coloured for a French person."

The questinn arises: are the French racist? In the ideological sense of obsession with race and white supremacy, 1 think not, despite the Front National's rise. In the broader sense of cultural solipsism, even cultural intolerance, there is a case to answer. The French call it nombrilisme - preoccupation with

one's own belly-button. We have come across it our-

← They have no interest in making connections with

foreigners 7

selves. We have invited schoolfriends of Charlie's to come to the house, sending formal notes to the parents in the approved manner, and received no reply whatsoever. The parents who do respond have some kind of foreign experience or connection. They tell us the reaction of the have rigidly structured lives and an approved pattero of friends. They have no interest in mak-

ing connections with foreigners. Here is a seeming paradox. On one hand you have the overpowering self-satisfaction and self-confidence of the French. On the other, you have a nation gripped by a great crisis of confidence. The mood into which France has plunged in the France. past two years is composed of many things, but underlying it is a fear of the modern world. a fear that the French economy and French culture will be swamped in the techno-global world of the 21st century.



John Lichfield

The paradox is no paradox hut two sides of the same coin. France is more worried than other nations about loss of identity because it thinks it has more to lose. It will have to speak to foreigners; travel abroad. It fears bad culture drives out good. Put more pejoratively, France is anxious about having to measure its superiority against the rest of the world on a daily basis.

ruptibly French.

At its extreme, as propagated by the Front, this has become a conspiracy theory. France is the victim of a conspiracy by the forces of Anti-France, comprising the Jewish lobbies, Freemasons, homosexuals, the Trilateral Commission, the European Commission and Jean-Marie Le Pen's new hugbear, the US. They are plotting to abolish culture and identity and replace it with a lowest-common-denominator world culture.

At some rallies, this view is promoted in Orwellian cadences: croques monsieur good, hamburgers bad; Orangina good, Coca-Cola bad; berets

good, baseball caps had. One should not laugh too loudly. This is a new and effective way nf extending the FN's message beyond the purely racial to something more amorphously and powerfully cultural. It plays on legitimate anxieties but is based on a lie. The obsession, and it is not just a FN obsession, with a fragile. and threatened. French cultural purity is a distortion of history and a trap. The kind of stultifying inwardness it im-plies would be - already is - a bigger threat to French greatness than globalisation or ille-

gal immigration. France has always been ences from the world and be for ever French. France has much to offer the new global world. It will, arguably, also benefit from having its doors and windows opened wider and becoming less nombriliste.

This week I was in Toulon, a Front National-run town which has long had the reputation of being the most intolerant in

I was waiting, with some dread, for a Le Pen rally for fanatical frontiste pensioners.

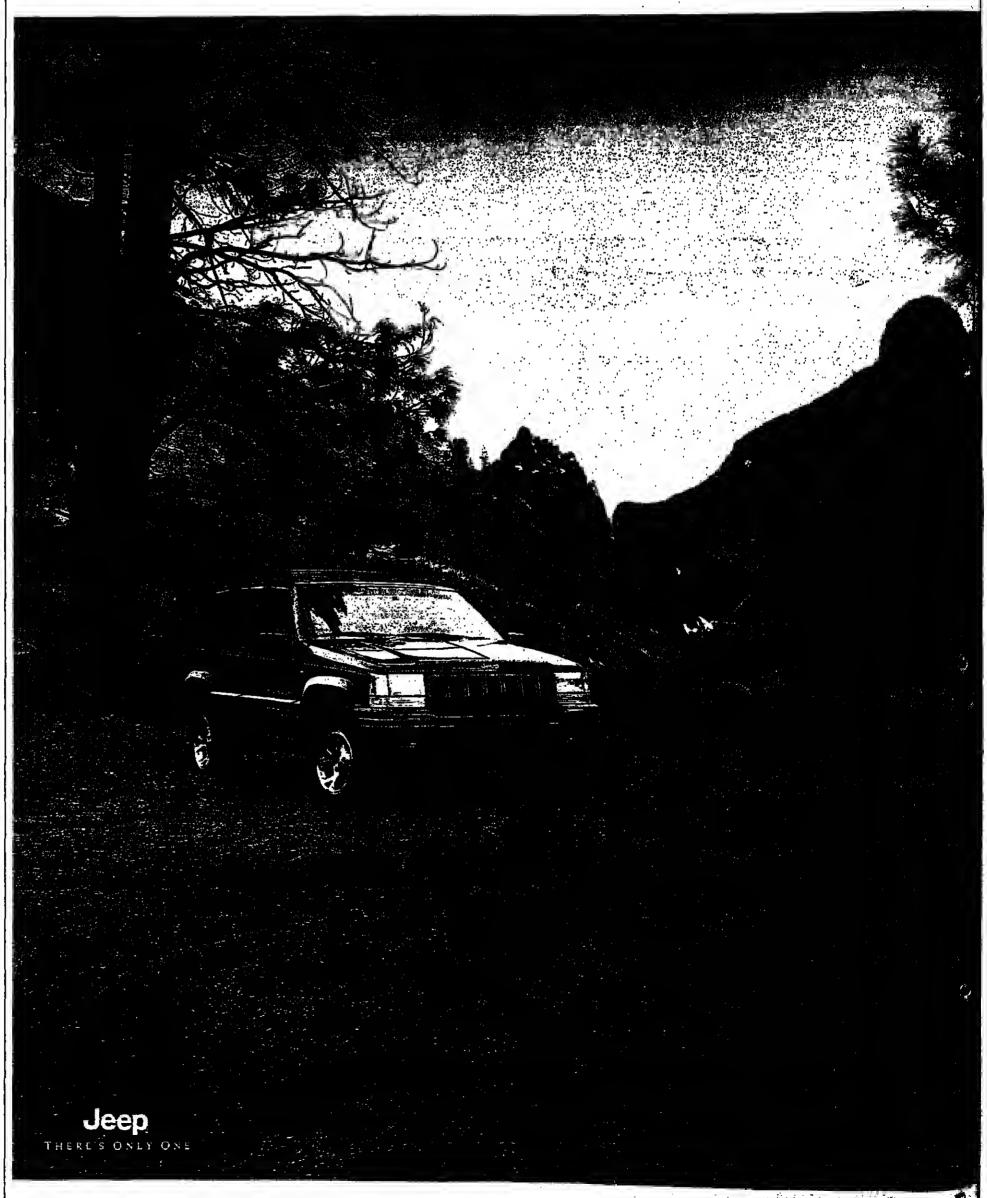
I went in a café, which had check-clothed tables spilling into the sunshine. The patron and the one waiter were evi-



A FULLY GROWN GRIZZLY BEAR may stand over 9 feet high, and weigh in at over 9001b.

It's a powerful swimmer, a very capable climber and it can easily overtake a human. Unless, that is, the human is driving a Jeep Grand Cherokee, where masses of torque and a 0-60 m.p.h. acceleration time of

under 10 seconds can come in very handy. (Even the Laredo turho diesel gets there in just 13.9 secs.)



significant shorts

Angry German builders storm the Reichstag

Protesting builders stormed the Reichstag in Berlin, traditional and future home of Germany's parliament. Five policemen were injured and eight protesters arrested.
Their union wants an end to "wage dumping" by cheaper
workers from Britain, Portugal and East Europe, and resumption of "cold-weather payments", which offered a safety net to those laid off in winter. Imre Karacs - Bonn

Killer asks for death penalty

A Jewish man asked for the death penalty after being denied more time to explain how he was driven to kill his children because his ex-wife wanted to raise them as Christians. "My children cannut be Christians. I dnn't know if you can understand that," Avi Kostner said. He testified for four hours about his abusive childhood, his custody battle and his reasons for drugging and killing his children. Geri Beth, 12, and Ryan, 10.

AP - Hackensack, New Jersey

Dangerous profession

Twenty-seven jnurnalists were killed in 1996, and 24 countries held a record t85 reporters in prison at the end of last year, the Committee to Protect Journalists said, Turkish prisons held more than a third of the 1996 total.

Vietnamese smoke signal

Philip Morris Vietnam, a subsidiary of the US company, was fined a symbolic \$2,700 (£1,680), and hundreds of its Marlboro posters, promotional lighters and eigarette cases were confiscated after it violated an advertising ban.

AP – Ho Chi Minh City

86 feared dead in plane crash

A military transport with 80 people on board crashed in a mountainous region of north-east Iran and there was no news of survivors. Iranian media said. Routers -Tehran

End in sight for defector saga

Li Peng, China's Prime Minister, said a solution was in sight for Hwang Jang Yop, a North Korean defector holed up in the South Korean consulate.

AP - Peking up in the South Korean consulate.

مكذا من الأصل

Turkey rocks EU boat in struggle to get on board

Europe Editor weekend among the EU's 15 foreign ministers at the Dutch A sharp downturn in the Eu- town of Apeldoorn. As Turkey ropean Union's relations with Turkey is expected to figure sion in the EU, an open split has

developed between those EU countries which say the Turks should never become members and others, including Britain and France, which reject so rigid a stance.

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The disagreement has begun to affect EU relations with the United States, US ambassadors in Europe recently received instructions to warn EU governments that the US had "very

Still waters: A riverboat crossing the Bosphorus in Istanbul, the historic meeting point between Europe and Asia

strong views" on the desirabil-ity of keeping EU membership

key's European ideotity should ultimately find expression in EU

membership is clearly anathema in several continental capitals. Last week the leaders of Christian Democratic and centrist parties from Belgium, Germany. Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and

Spain bluntly declared that Turkey should not be a candidate for joining the EU even in the long term. France quickly dissociated it-

self from the declaration. "It is important for the stability of ... Europe that the Turks retain a European prospect, even if we know that membership would not be realistic in the short term," said France's European Affairs Minister, Michel Barnier.

That view is broadly shared in Britain, which does not agree with some EU countries that Turkey's Islamic faith and hernage should disbar it from membership. There is a very serious worry in the EU about the way the relationship with Turkey has deteriorated in the last few months," one British official said. "But we say the main obstacle is oot cultural or religious. it is the sheer fioancial and ecocomic set of problems that early Turkish membership would cause. It is a very big country and very backward by EU standards."

Hence Britaio distinguishes between Turkey, which it says should be treated as a member of the European family and an eventual contender for EU admission, and central and eastem European states such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. British support for EU membership for the latter countries is unqualified.
To accommodate Turkish as-

pirations, France is proposing a "European conference" that would bring together EU members with those states excluded from the formal accession oegotiations expected to open next year. Turkey would be included proof of the EU's commitment not to leave it in the cold.

Whether this will be enough

matter. Tansu Ciller, the pro-Western Foreign Minister, said yesterday: "A formation in Europe excluding Turkey will be a loss for the region and threat-

ening to peace. Some continental EU officials say that Turkey would not have received its public slap io the face last week, if the Turks had not threatened to block Nato's enlargement by linking it to their own desire to join the EU. Like the US, EU governmeous oppose attempts to hold the enlargements of Nato and

Photograph: John Voos

the EU bostage to each other. However, other factors are at play. In Germany, which is home to almost 2 millioo Turks,

Turkey is a very big country and very backward by EU standards 9

the government would find it difficult to voice support for Turkish membership of the EU at a time when unemployment is at its highest level since 1933.

Moreover, many EU governments believe that they would have fewer problems with Turkey if it were not for the attitude of Greece. Turkey concluded a customs union with the EU in late 1995, hut Greece has persisted in blocking funds for Turkey that were supposed to flow from the agreement. At in the "conference" group as Apeldoorn, the majority of EU states are likely to urge Grecce to show more open-mindedness hut few think a breakthrough is

to appease the Turks is another in store. US dismayed by threat to Nato's growth

Christopher de Bellaigue

"We very respectfully submit to our European frieods that they must strategically think of Turkey as a European country and not send negative signals to Turkey."
Last Tuesday, a State De-

pariment statement affirmed US support for Turkey's efforts to join the European Union. Unfortunately for Turkish Europhiles, friendly Nicholas Burns, who delivered the message, speaks for a nation with no clout in Brussels and no seats in Strasbourg. The United States is unhap-

py with the way things are going for Turkey in Europe. Washington dislikes the shallow philosophising of EU members who want the Turks to keep their distance. "Cultural differences, is how Jean-Claud Juncker, Luxembourg's Prime Minister, put it. Other Europeans speak of a "civilisation" in which Turkey has no place. Such talk has united Eu-

rophile and Islamist Turks to decry the Europeans. It has also galvanised US officials into interceding on Turkey's behalf. earning accusations of meddling. Why should the US upset friends within the EU, and a Greek-American lobby of 4 million, for a hopeless cause?

The simplest reason is gratitude. For almost half a centuin the name of American ideals. which was more pragmatic about "cultural differences", against the Soviet Union.

During the Gulf War, the Turks aroused Arab anger when US jets bombed Iraq from Turkey. Eveo now, Necmettin less fortbeoming.

Erbakan, Turkey's Islamic Prime Minister, allows the US Air Force to patrol Northern Iraq from a Turkish base.

But American grantude is not all that arouses support for Turkey's European aspirations. The US, despite protestations, appears to have accepted the practical existence of a link between Nato and the EU.

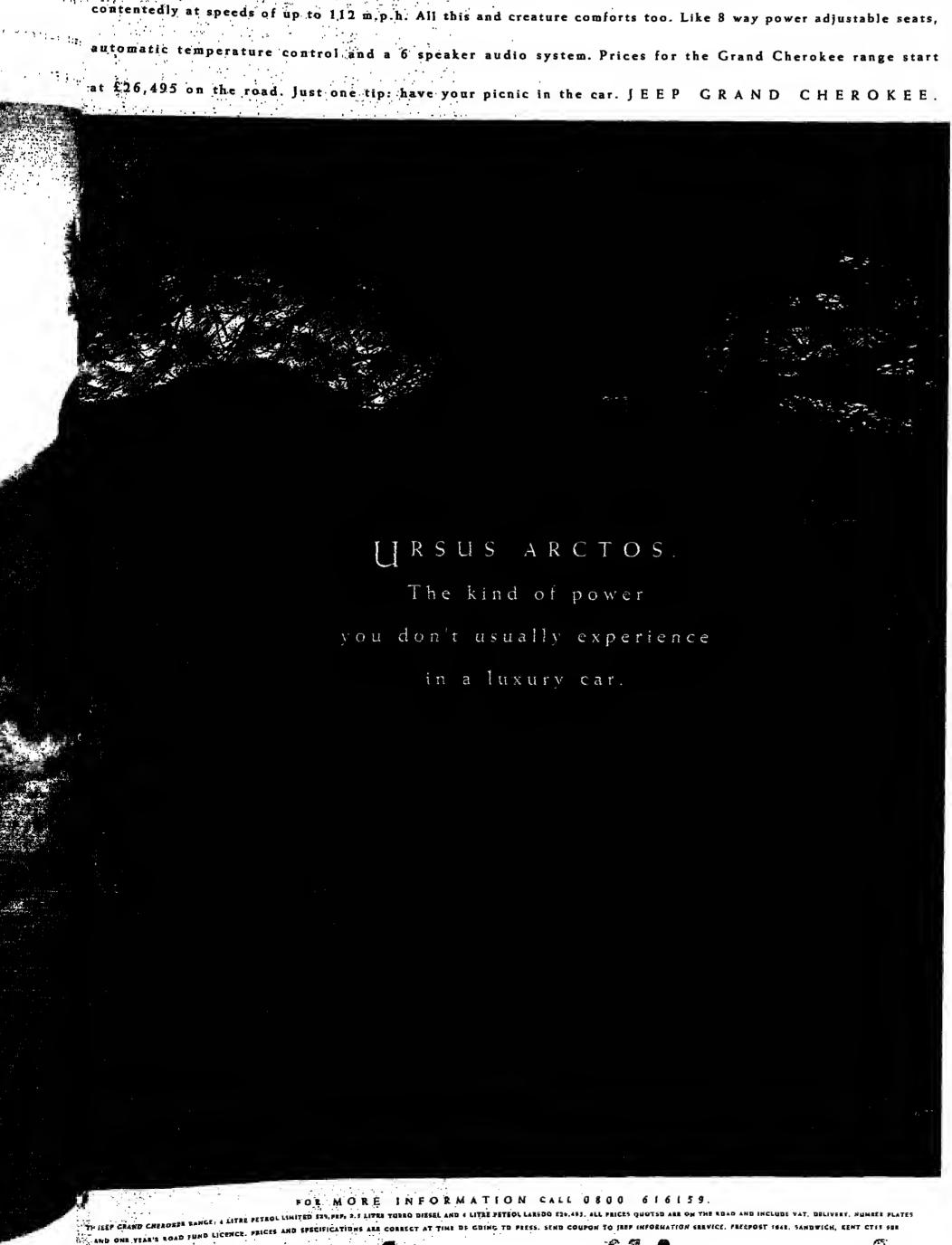
The EU says this link does not exist. It was raised by the Turks themselves, who threatened to scupper Nato enlarge-ment unless they got good news on Europe. The Americans then delivered a threat of their own: according to one US official, the Turks face "a major col-lision," should they veto the Alliance's enlargement. On the other hand, the Turks now have the US lobbying on their behalf. A satisfactory response from

the EU is far from guaranteed. Europe and the US look at Turkey in different ways. The US has a strategic interest in Turkey, because it borders the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Middle East.

Washington's mediation does not mean all is well between the Americans and the Turks. One source of worry is Mr Erbakan's Welfare Party, whose members incline to Teheran. Last year, Mr Erbakan signed a £23bn natural gas deal with Iran.

The ties of friendship have also been tested by the Greek lobby in the US, which has ry, Turkey has made sacrifices blocked hig arms sales to Turkey. The Americans have More than 700 Turks lost their also begun toughening up their lives in the Korean war. The attitude towards human rights. Turks theo provided Nato, now the Soviet divisions are no longer on the Turkish border. In the short term, however,

with a vital first line of defence the Americans want Turkey's hlessing for Nato's enlargement. The EU wants the same thing, though European sympathy for US methods may be



Professor L. C. Knights

F. R. Leavis and his wife are rightly thought of as the but it was L. C. Knights and a few friends who had the idea of creating such a literary quarterly, and took steps to bring it into heing on 15 May 1932 -Knights's 26th birthday.

Knights was the only one of Senuiny's editors who served in that role for every one of its 76 issues. For some time he had been only a nominal editor and he only learnt from a third person in 1953 of the decision to abandon publication. "I was hurt. he wrote later, "by this failure of communication.

I first met Lionel Knights when I was a sixth-former at Gresham's School in Norfolk. He was visiting his close friend, and co-editor of Scrutiny. Denys Thompson, who taught me English literature. Thompson invited me to join them for a walk over the sands at Wells. and I remember little of their conversation except that Knights managed to cap every one of our remarks with an appropriate quotation from Shakespeare, whose plays he ap-parently knew by heart. I found him a rather perplexing mixture of the severe and merry, but felt pleased with myself for choosiog his recent pamphlet How Many Children Had Lady Mac-beth? (1933) as my school prize for literature.

Meeting him frequently over the subsequent years corrected both these first impressions. The apparent severity - a product of a high brow and rimtess spectacles - was really a moral integrity which partially masked what Leavis described as an Eliot-like Christian gentleness: and his Elizabethan learning was accompanied by an excessive modesty which led him to conclude his Lady Macbeth pamphlet by insisting that he had no illusions about the adequacy of [my] remarks as criticism: they are murely pointers". In the event his dismissal of the Bradleyan notion that Sbakespeare was pre-eminently a creator of "living characters" and the instruments of knowledge in his insistence that the plays some field of human effort". If his insistence that the plays must be considered as dramatie noems became a central tenet of the Scrittiny movement.

Knights followed up How Many Children Had Lady Mac-

where under attack, it is sadly

symbolic that one of the

founders of the French etai

providence should have died. Al-

bert Gazier was 88. All his life

a socialist and a trade unionist,

on several occasions he held

ministerial office under the

son of schoolteachers, he was

rendered poor by the death of

his father in 1916. He started

work as an errand boy and

continued to have elerical jobs.

though he graduated in Law. As

a member of the left-wing trade

union the Confederation Gen-

erale du Travail (CGT), he be-

gan to assume positions of

With the coming of the Pop-

ular Front he was one of those

who organised the strikes and

occupations of the large de-

parimental stores in Pares in

June 1936. The hauling down of

the vellow flag of the Samari-

taine and its replacement by the

flag of the CGT was one of the

great moments of the social ex-

plosion that greeted the victo-

ry of Leon Blum, But Gazier was

always prudent, apprehensive of

a Communist take-over, some-

one who sought negotiation.

Born in Valenciennes the

Fourth Republic.

responsibility.

which earned him his PhD, Drama and Society in the Age of Jonson (1937). His Cambridge colleague the distinguished Elizabetban scholar Leo Salingar has described this as one of the first studies to relate the themes and quality of an author's style to the nature and traditions of his society. After the Jonson book came a stream of essays and books on 17thcentury literature, including three volumes of what he typically called "explorations" Explorations, 1946, Further Explorations, 1965, and Explorations 3, 1976) - in his later writings he often seems to be exploring what lies beneath a writer's skin. But it is revealing that his earliest as well as many of his later essays in Scrutiny were on educational themes. notably his "scrutinies" of modern universities, of training colleges and of examinations.



For Knights was a devoted teacher who flourished both in the lecture hall and in the intimacy of the seminar room. And he had the daunting vision of the central tasks facing a university and its teachers as being to cultivate four qualities: "A sensitive and flexible intelligence that can be brought to bear effectively upon the problems . . . of society": "A poten-tially mature sense of values"; "A sense of the relativity of one's immediate standards"; and "An ability to use with precision such an ideal seems remote from today's educational world, it offers a good description of the education which Knights set out to offer his own students.

army in 1939, in 1940 he became

one of the leaders of trade-

union opposition to the Vichy

government. From December

1940 he was one of Christian

Pineau's lieutenants in the

movement of Libération-Nord.

He escaped from the Gestapo in 1942, and having taken

refuge in the Jura, he spent some time in London during

1943, and was appointed to the

Consultative Assembly that met

in Algiers. After the Liberation.

he was elected a member of the

egy was to oppose any possible Communist domination. Some-

times this made him violent, as

he demanded more rigorous

punishment for collaborators at

the Liberation, so that the

Communists would not have

the monopoly of revenge.

Sometimes and more natural-

ly, he urged a consensus be-

tween liberals and socialists, in

1945 proposing that the state

should play a moderate role in

But he was also opposed to

economic and social matters.

a Gaullist dictatorship. In June

1944 he had proposed, on be-

half of the CGT, that de Gaulle

In all these places his strat-

Constituent Assembly.

ing was carried out at the universities of Manchester, Sheffield and Bristol (in the latter two as Professor), and not at Cambridge where he had originally studied. When he first went as an undergraduate to Cambridge from his bome in Grantham, he was apparently entranced by the cultural charm of life in the city. But his eight years at Cambridge as King Edward VII Professor of English Literature from 1965 to 1973 were to prove the least happy of all his teaching career. In a what is it?", he said that the approach of the School of English "was concerned for the quality of life of individuals and therefore for the quality of the civilisation that shaped them and

ulty as he found it was fully articulating those ideas. Moreover he discovered that, though a professor, he was not, for much of his time, Chairman of the Faculty Board and thus lacked the authority he had enjoyed at the provincial universities. Indeed, confronted by a faculty whose members wielded most of their power in their own colleges' fastnesses and who enjoyed no corporate life in the faculty, Knights felt frustrated and anxious, and he believed that he had managed to achieve very little to ensure "the smooth working of everyday teaching the arrangement and revitalising of undergraduate courses,

for which they were responsi-hle". But it is doubtful if the fac-

choice of set books, and so on". Of course Knights exagger-ated his lack of success at Cam-bridge, and he was not able to appreciate the subtle influence which be exerted as a profoundly civilised being. He was particularly glad that be managed to establish a joint Faculty-Student Committee

which was not without influence. But perhaps bis most serious disappointment at Cambridge was his estrangement from the Leavises. At the end of his life he wrote that "Leavis was the most important intellectual influence of my life in young adulthood; without his influence a large part of me might have remained dormant." And he became a close friend of the Leavis family. But on his return to Cambridge he found himself being addressed by Leavis as

This gave great offence to the

General, who did not wish

to owe his position to trade

unionists. In December 1945

Gazier was one of two socialists

who proposed a reduction of

military credits. He explained

that he only wanted to defend the rights of the Assembly and

to influence the government.

This was too much for de

Gaulle, who resigned in Janu-

ary 1946, disgusted at seeing

the renewed power of political

ernments in the years that fol-

lowed, but his most important

experience was as Minister for

Social Affairs, in the longest

government of the Fourth Re-

public, that of Guy Mollet, from February 1956 to May

1957. It was said that this

government had two policies: that personified by Robert La-

coste in Algiers, who repre-

sented the continuation of the

war, and that personified by

Gazier, who stood for social re-

form. He introduced a third

week of holidays with pay; he

created a tax on motor-cars

which funded a pension scheme

for the old; he negotiated an

agreement with the medical

Gazier served in several gov-

Albert Gazier

"Professor Judas", and be gathcred that Leavis believed "that he had in some way betrayed him and all he stood for". The specific charges were untrue, and Knights "was of course

None the less, whatever the rights and wrongs of this matter, Knights was wonderfully forbearing. And when, in his lat-er years, he lost much of his sight, he looked most stoically after his ailing wife Elizabeth, who survives him. But then, he was just such a person.

Lionel Knights came to Bristol in 1953 from Sheffield, where William Empson succeeded him as Professor of English writes Professor Henry Gifford. His association with Scrutiny made him in prospect a somewhat daunting figure.

However it did oot take him very long to allay the anxieties of a department comfortable with itself, and having a poten-tially strong medieval and lan-guage side. That he overcame the prejudice of those who expected him to uproot Anglo-Saxon was largely due to his own patience and respect for those who differed from him, and to his regard for Susie Tucker, an upholder of Old English and Old Norse and a notable student of the English language, She was to become a good friend of Elizabeth, Lionel and their children.

When some 12 years later he was about to move on to Cambridge and had just finished the book Further Explorations, he dedicated it to his colleagues in the English department. A more balanced and flexible course had been achieved, and be was leaving them with high morale and some confidence in the future.

A professor, in Knights's view, should lead bis depart-ment with authority tempered by gentle persuasion. His range of interests was wide, and the relation between literature and politics an abiding concern. He gave an example of critical thinking bumane and sensitive, and by no means restricted. Like F. R. Leavis to whom be had owed much, Knights believed that English should stand at the very centre of an arts facolty.

medical costs would be refund-

ed by social security; and be in-

reforms.

troduced important housing

These measures were popu-

lar with many, but they ar-

oused alarm because of their

cost. However, Gazier was soon

involved in more dramatic con-

troversy. He vigorously on-

posed the return of de Gaulle

to power in 1958 because of

his opposition to dictatorship

and because he believed that

there was a secret agreement

between de Gaulle and Mos-

cow. He was Minister for In-

formation in the government

of Pierre Pflimlin, and as

minister he led the march of

some 200,000 protesters across

Paris on 28 May, "la defense

republicaine demonstrating

against de Gaulle, and shouting

the slogan "De Gaulle au

cost him his seat in parliament:

he had been deputy for the Seine since October 1945. It also

caused him to break with his old

associate Guy Mollet. In his de-

sire to renovate the Socialist

Party, and in his conviction

that the purpose of Gaullism

was to save capitalism, he ac-

His opposition to de Gaulle

veloped new courses, such in English with Classics, and English with Russian, a new subject nurtured at the beginning within the English department.

Knights was a gifted lectur-er. Many of his essays in the three volumes of his Explorations had begun as lectures. This was a form that suited him very well. He had a finely controlled histrionic streak, reading Sbakespeare's verse with animation and a delicate sense of rhythm. His conviction about the value of great literature ap-pealed to his students. Like his close friend D. W. Harding be had a sensibility that was at-tracted by a religious way of life, although when his wife Elizabeth hecame a Christian he somewhat painfully remained outside the Church. Coleridge was always important to him, and Blake. His essay on George Herbert, with its blend of intimacy and a sense of exclusion. was what Eliot turned to before

writing himself on the poet. Knights has written about the significance for him of a boyhood in Grantham at the turn of the century. In that oldfashioned place he became "im-mersed in social problems" with those "nice distinctions of rank" belonging to Middlemarch. The escape from Grantham was, however, not without a backward and appreciative look. The world he lived to see produced a cultural shock so profound that it alerted him to the danger of "the cruel, the self-seeking and the unimaginative having a large share of control".

Those who knew Lionel Knights in his rewarding years at Bristol will remember with gratitude a humane scholar in a tradition that must not be allowed to die.

Lionel Charles Knights, teacher and critic; born 15 May 1906; Lec-turer in English Literature, Manturer in English Literature, Man-chester University 1933-34, 1935-47; Professor of English Literature, Sheffield University 1947-52; Winterstoke Professor of English, Bristol University 1953-64; King Edward VII Professor of English Literature, Cambridge University 1965-73 (Emeritus); Fellow, Gusens' College Cambridge Queens' College, Cambridge 1965-73; married 1936 Elizabeth Barnes (one son, one daughter); died Durham 8 March 1997.



Photograph: Hulton Getty

cepted that socialists and Communists should work together It was in this spirit that he became a supporter of Francois Mitterrand. He became a fervent supporter of Enropean unity and occupied many distinguished but largely hooorific posts during the Mitterrand

Douglas Johnson

Albert Gazier, politician and trade unionist: born Valenciennes, France 16 May 1908; Minister for Public Works 1946; Secretary of State to the President du Conseil 1947; Minister for In-formation 1950-51, 1958; Minister for Social Affairs 1956-57; married; died Vanves 2 March



Ronald Fraser

The pompous, blustering tones of Ronald Fraser brought to television and films for 40 years an actor invariably cast as an upper-class gent, not of the David Niven variety, but often prone to seediness and self-deprecation.

He was hest known on television for his Seventies sitcom roles as the rumhustious old colonial "Badger" Allenby-Johnson, arriving back in Britain and confronting the permissive society, in *The Mis-*fit and a wacky police inspector in *Spooner's Patch*. He was also known as a man about town in the Sixties, often to be found in

London's pubs and nightspots. Born in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, in 1930, the son of a Scottish builder and interior decorator, Fraser caught the acting bug while performing in Terence Rattigan's French Without lears in Benghazi, North Africa, during National Service with the Seaforth Highlanders. He subsequently trained at RADA and, on leaving in 1953, became a dresser to the legendary actormanager Sir Donald Wolfit at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, before gaining more acting experience at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow. Fraser made his London stage début in The Good Sailor and joined the Old.

Vic Company in 1954.
His many West End performances included roles in The Long and the Short and the Tall, The Ginger Man, The Singular Man, Androcles and the Lion, The Showing Up of Blan-co Posnet, Purple Dust, Enter-taining Mr Sloane, The Pirates of Penzance and High Society. He also appeared on Broadway in La Grosse Valise and played Fal-staff in a production of The Mer-ry Waves of Windsor at the Open

Air Theatre, Regent's Park. In almost 50 film roles, Fraser acted alongside such greats as Robert Mitchum, Deborah Kerr, Norman Wisdom, Laurence Harvey, David Niven, Harry Andrews, Richard Todd, Maurice Chevalier, Tony Hancock, Richard Burton, Elizabeth

Finch and Ralph Richardson. The films included Black Ice (his debut, 1957), The Sundowners (1960), There Was a Crooked Man (1960), The Long and the Short and the Tall (1960), The Punch and Judy Man (1962), The Flight of the Phoenix (1965), The Killing of Sister George (1968), the surrealistic comedy The Bed Sitting Room (1969), the satirical, Monty Pythonstyle The Rise and Rise of Michael Rimmer (1970) and the beantifully made family

the beantifully made family drama Swallows and Amazons (1974, based on Arthur Ransome's novel).

But, as the British film industry went into its bleak years of production in the Seventies, Fraser was increasingly seen in pictures such as the comedies Rentadick (1971) and Ooh, You Are Awful (1972) and exploitafilms such as Percy's Progress (1974) and Come Play with Me (1977). Roles on the big screen appeared to improve with his appearance in The Wild Geese (1978), although Trail of the Pink Panther (1982) was disappointing, as was di-rector Julien Temple's musical Absolute Beginners (1986). Fraser experienced a revival

in Scandal (1988), playing Jus-tice Marshall – who tried Stephen Ward for living off the immoral earnings of prostitution in the Profumo affair of the Sixties - Let Him Have It (1991) and The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1993). He was due to play an aristocratic Marxist taxi-driver, driving a Rolls-Royce, in the forthcoming feature film I Love You Love Me Love, to be directed by James Cellan-Jones.

On television, Fraser made his name as Basil "Badger" Allenby-Johnson, a rubber planter returning from Malaya to find a very different England from the one he had left, in two series of Roy Clarke's The Misfit (1970-71). Complete with Panama hat and clinging on to Edwardian standards, "Badger" was shocked by the society around him - and the casual be-Taylor, James Stewart, Peter haviour of his son Ted (played

by Simon Ward). He was even more sbocked when he had to travel north in a vain search for employment.

Fraser returned to sitcom in 1979 as the manic Inspector Spooner in the first series of Ray Galton and Johnny Speight's spoof police series Spooner's Patch, Set in Woodley police station, the stories involved corruption and skits of other television policemen. However, Fraser did not continue in the role when the programme returned for two more series and was replaced by Donald

His dozens of character roles on television have included appearances in Pennies from Heav-en (1978), Brideshead Revisited (1981), Fortunes of War (1987), Taggart: Violent Delights (1992), The Blackheath Poisonings (1992), Class Act (1994, as judge, alongside Joanna Lum-ley) and P.G. Wodebouse's Heavy Weather (1995, as Sir Gregory Parsloe).

One of Fraser's last television appearances was as the drunken judge Sir Richard Gregory in The Fortunes and Misfor tunes of Moll Flanders, Andrew Davies's 1996 adaptation of Daniel Defoe's classic novel. Davies created the role to give Moll the reprieve that saves her from the gallows and allows ber to be transported to Virginia instead. The worse for drink, Sir Richard leaves a tavern with Moll (Alex Kingston) and has sex with her in his carriage, leaving him open to hlackmail and being forced to give her a pardon.

Fraser, a colourful character admitted to a fondness for alcohol and explained away several drink-driving convictions as resulting from "a little revelry on the roads of our kingdom"

Anthony Hayward

Ronald Gordon Fraser, actor. born Ashton-under-Lyne, Lan-cashire 11 April 1930; married 1956 Elizabeth Howe (two daughters; marriage dissolved 1964); died London 13 March 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

CANG: Anna Bela, On 12 March 1987, at Dolgellau Hispital, North Wales, aged 91. Doughter of Dr Jacob and Emilia Cynberg of Lublin, sister of Emilio Cynberg of Lublin, sister of Dora and Stefanie, sister-in-law of Josef Liptanski and of Dr Wladislaw Ney, widow of beef Cang, truly loved mother of Stephen, mother-in-law of Jennifer, grandmother of Matthew, Joseph, and Gilbert, Cremation, 3,45pm, Wednesday 19 March, at Golders Green.

IN MEMORIAM

MENOEZ: Joan P. 16 March, Lots of love, David F.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & HEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Et SDL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Result Patron, Sounds Pacify Lines to the altered file Princes Worker Hatermassial Works to Part de Princes Parts

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming

marriages Mr J. J. Hate and Miss A. L. Hey

The engagement is announced between John Justin, son of Professor Sir John and Lady Hale, of Twickenham. Middlesex, and Amanda Louise, vounger daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Heys, of East Mole-

Mr S. A. Wajed FRCS and Dr R. Balty

The engagement is announced be-tween Shahjehan (Saj), elder son of Dr and Mrs M. Wajed, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Rachel, youngest daughter of the Res and Mrs J. Bal-ty, of Goole, East Humberside, The wedding wilt take place in Septem-

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr David Allon MP, 47; Mr Alexander Bernstein, former chairman. Granada Group, 62: Dr David Bryer, director, Oxfam, 53; Miss bebel Buchanan, soprano, 43: Mr. James Buller, former senior partner. KPMG Pear Marwick, 68; Sir Jack Callard, former chairman, Botish Home Stores, 84: Sir Robert Carn-wath, High Court judge, 52: Lord Constantine of Stammore, former company chairman, 87: Mr Ry Cooder, folk and blues guitarist, 51; Mr Frank Dobson MP, 57; Professor Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith, architect, 70: Mr John Durring, actor, 49: The Right Rev John Gibbs, former Bishop of Covenity, 80: Professor John Gillingham, neurosurgeon, 81: Earl

Haig, painter, 79; Sir Leonard Knowles, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 81; Mr Mike Love, vocalist, 53; Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, former chief executive. Botish Aerospace. 73: Mr Keith McCarter, sculp-tor, 61: Professor Joan Mitchell, political economist. 77: Mr Michael vicore, chairman, Quicks Group, 61 Mr Robert Nye, novelist and poet 58: Mr Ben Okri, writer, 38; Sir Philip Powell, architect, 76; The Right Rev Michael Scott Joyns, Bishop of Winchester, 54; Sir Roger Tomkys, Mas-ter, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 60; Mr David Wall, former Director. Royal Academy of Dancing, 5t. TOMORROW: Mr Ben Aris, actor

ott; Mr Mauhew Bannister. Con-troller. BBC Radio t. and managing director, Network Radio BBC, 40: Miss Sybille Bedford, author, 80; Miss Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano. 62; Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film di-rector, 56; The Right Rev Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 62; Sir John Drinkwater QC. a Commis sioner of theome Tax, 72: Sir Philip Foreman, former chairman, Shor Bros. 74: Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxiey-Norms, Chairman Emeritus, Cheshire Foundation, 80 Mr Ramon Hnatyshyn, former Governor-General of Canada, 63; Siz Ewart Jones, Emeritus Professor o Chemistry, Oxford University, 86; Sir Anthony Kenny, Warden, Rhodes House, 66; Mr Jerry Lewis, comedi-an, 71; Mr Leo McKern, actor. Mass Kate Nelligan, actress, 46; Mr Ruger Norrington, conductor, 63: Mr Richard Puttick, former chairman, Taytor Wivodrow, 81; Miss Bridger Rowe, Editor, the Sunday

Creation and procreation: we tread on holy ground

One of the most striking facts about our society today is the apparent loss of hope. There is a pessimism which pervades much of our cultural life, refleeting a profound disenchantment of the human spirit, and an absence of faith in the possibility of transformation and redemption. We have stopped relying on God, but find humanity to be wanting. "The great tragedy of modern civil-

isation is to be found in the failure of material progress to satisfy human needs." wrote Christopher Dawson in 1939 as the Nazi threat was beginning to take shape in Germany. The world be said, needed to recover a "spiritual vitality". Nearly 70 years later that need is even more urgent. For many today something only ex-

ists if it can be immediately known and verified by the five senses. What cannot be examined under a microscope or observed through a telescope, does not exist. There is no such thing as the spiritual: the non-material has no existence, it is said.

There is, I suspect a general consensus over what are the basic moral values: values such as kindness, honesty, faithfulness in relationships, respect for others, for the environment, for justice and for law. Recently the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority found an extensive agreement between people of different faiths and no faith. ture of humanity. They disclose the people of different faiths and no faith.

faith o reason

The possibility of human cloning shows that shared moral values are not enough. Society needs to recover a sense of 'the good', argues Cardinal Basil Hume.

across social groups, on a range of moral values. But to the question "What is the good?", which addresses the source and authority of those values, it is common today is to assert that there is no true answer: morality is a matter of opinion.

In the Judaeo-Christian tradition the Ten Commandments, as the revelation of God, offer objective moral norms. They set out a framework of morality which not only defines our obligations to others, but at a deep level resonates with what we know to be required for human well-being and life in community. Far from being arbitrary external requirements of one tradition, they offor all peoples insights into the true na-

directly, the inalienable rights of the human person. They apply to all of us because we share a common bumanity. Indeed, it is from a deeper appreciation of our common humanity that we can more readily consider the ways we should behave towards each other.

Three consequences stand out. First, we need to respect and protect buman life itself, from conception to its natural end. Secondly, our shared humanity requires us to acknowledge the rights of all to what is needed to live a fully hu-man life - including food, clothing, shelter, education and employment. Thirdly, we have to recognise that we owe certain duties to others.

therefore ill-prepared to grapple with a looming issue which I have no doubt is fast becoming one of the major moral problems of our age, namely the implications of breathtaking develop.

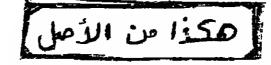
Our sc ments in genetics and biotechnology. I heard last week of a distinguished scientist imagining apparently with com-plete equanimity, a future in which children were the product of three different sets of parents; biological parents, gestational parents, and a third set who were bringing them up. If we separate these three relationships then we in some way undermine something which is specifically human.

There are undoubted benefits which gene therapy might bring. I do fear for the future, however, if the language of bodily human love is gradually re-placed by an artificial process, if pro-creation becomes production, or even reproduction, and if the individual human being becomes valued as a product to be ordered rather than a gift to

Our human nature is delicate and fragile. There are boundaries which we cannot cross without fundamentally altering the way we relate to others, and see ourselves. Furthermore, we have no experience of the potential lifelong consequences which could follow from Yet our society has become, in some bringing human life into the world in respects, morally desensitised, and is new artificial ways. We must act with extreme caution, for bringing new life into the world is the nearest human beings come to creation. We tread on holy

Our society badly needs to recover a deeper knowledge of what it means to be human. Without more people who are fully alive, seized of their duties to others, committed to building a better world, the outlook for our society is bleak. This is why spiritual vitality is so urgent, and why schools should be committed to the cultivation of goodness before success.

· Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely



rotests China rising crime

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End of the road for the Tory camp followers

hat was the week, that was, that the ruling class threw in the towel. No, not in Alba-lapelled Thatcherite businessmen. nia. In Westminster, the City, the Home Counties and beyond. It took a few days for the import of the Wirral South by election to sink in, but now the Tory power elite has given up.

We record the visible signs on our news pages today. Edwina Currie talking yesterday of the "formation of columns and lines and factions and groups" in the leadership election which she wants to see as quickly as possible after defeat. The Tory columnists Matthew Parris and Boris Johnson writing about the certainty of defeat in The Times and The Telegraph. But there is a less visible change happening, which is difficult for daily or even weekly newspapers to record. It is the intangible shift of power from one community of government to another. This is the week to stand back, observe and wonder.

A community of government is a large body: much broader than simply ministers or MPs. There is a hinterland of influence-brokers: around a government, irrigated by the flow of power. And beyond them, a whole social stratum which draws sustenance from the same source. For the middle classes of the Home Counties, bound together by complex, overlapping subgroups of company directors, financial traders, quango members, this has been "their" government. For 18 years, the public debate that mattered took place between rival sub-groups of this élite: between, for example, hicycling, tweed-

For some time, power has been ebhing away from the Tory élite, but it is only this week that the tap was finally turned off. Suddenly, the Tory commentators find themselves on the outside, on the fringes of power. When they drink with Tory MPs, they are no longer drinking at the well of power. This week, they have started to realise that they no longer know what is going on. The people who will make the running are no longer their friends. They do not know the people who matter.

The cynic may be prompted to ask: so what? Has Tony Blair's success not been to huild bridges to precisely those social groups that sustained the Tories in power? The whole point about the coming election, surely, is that nothmg is going to change.

But this is a fundamental misreading of the nature of political change. If Mr Blair wins, the personnel of the power élite will change completely. It is hard to over-estimate the impact, if he really does win, that this will have.

As the Chancellor put it yesterday: "There is no option marked Tory Policies, Labour Men'." The new power élite is made up of Labour Men and Labour Women, and although they may start by accepting many Tory Policies, they will operate them on Labour Assumptions.

In part, this is a generational shift: the new élite will be younger, it will speak a different lan-



guage, it will care about different things. For example, the new guard will not give a moment's thought to fogevish Tory reservations about constitutional change. For them, the only objections to reform are the practical ones of rival priorities, rival models of democracy and arguments of efficiency. For another example, imagine the pressures on Gordon Brown as he draws up his first full Budget. Of course, much of his room for manoeuvre would be constrained by the same factors that would limit Kenneth Clarke - which the shadow Chancellor has explicitly acknowledged by accepting in advance some of

the key Tory tax-and-spend figures. But there will be a host of other decisions to be taken. many of which could be or become just as important as the top rate of income tax. It is possible - to put it no higher - that the networks surrounding Mr Brown will instinctively take a different view of green taxes, equality (a word that might cease sounding old-fashioned) and welfare dependency.

Much of this is difficult to predict in advance. Margaret Thatcher did not know in 1979 what Thatcherism would be like. The feel of Conservatism has changed several times over the past 18 years. It was fought over by economic liberals and social authoritarians, moulded by the practical need to sell off state assets, and twisted by the gravitational pull of European integration, It is probable that not even Mr Blair knows in 1997 what Blairism will be like. Its meaning will be contested both within new Labour and herween new Labour and old, Many of the Lahour power elite are northern, even Scottish. Many come from trade-union and leftwing backgrounds, even if they hold modernised views. They are likely to clash with the new power brokers moving in towards the centre of power in the husiness world.

Some of this change could mean the replacement of one clique of cronies and courtiers by another. This newspaper drew attention this week to the empire-huilding tendencies of the shadow Chancellor, which are uminous for a Blair administration. We have also been sceptical about Mr Blair's relations with some multinational corporations, such as NewsCorp and BT. The character of the new groups to which power shifts will, in the end, depend on the character of Mr Blair.

On halance, this change is likely to turn out to be refreshing. The renewal that is possible if the rivers of power flow into fresh channels should confound the cynics who fear that the election will change nothing. The election may still be a month and a half away, but this week saw the beginning of a big change in the culture and character of British politics. Suddenly, Conservative camp followers are finding out what life is like when you are no longer inside the tent plainly a humbling experience, particularly for those who have never known any different. But at least we know it will be good for them.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Lilley's funded pensions still lay a burden on the future

Sir: It is claimed on behalf of Peter Lilley's proposals for pension reform. (report, 6 March) that they offer the next generation "gemine security through a real fund for its pensions".

There is plenty of historical evidence that the advance funding of pensions does not invariably provide greater security than "pay-as-yon-go" financing (this year's contributions being used to pay this year's benefits). One of the arguments advanced in favour of the French system of repartition, a collective system of occupational pension provision financed on pay-as-yon-go principles, is the greater security it affords by spreading the risk over the whole of society and over the

system of funded private pensions. It was destroyed in the 1940s by the military occupation and the severe inflation which followed it. The government had to introduce a system of levies on the working population to rescue the elderly whose retirement savings had

I presume that it is just because there is a lack of total faith in the long-term security of funded pensions that Peter Lilley's proposals

provide for a guarantee by the state. It is also often claimed that the "personalised" funding of pensions increases real investment, enabling pensions to be paid without cost to future generations of workers. These claims overlook the point that overreliance on saving for retirement could result in investments that exceed prudent investment market opportunities. A reasonable balance should always be maintained between "capitalisation" and "payas-you-go" in order to obtain a broad

spread of risk. In any event, it is hard to see how "personalisation" of retirement . savings can secure the provision of pensions without cost to other

with slavery shame

Bristol struggles

Sir: Many of us in Bristol are

campaigning for a long-overdue acknowledgement of the city's

half a million slaves were carried across the Atlantic in Bristol-based

ships. However, Linda Bellos ("Four

the campaign by repeating the myth about the lifracombe wreck.

They were black prisoners of war

captured by General Abercromby's

army in the West Indies in the war

their army and navy. The prisoners were on their way to the Admiralty

Prison at Stapleton near Bristol. It

was normal to use chains when

as a slave-exploiting and trading

nation because it is a historical fact

but will Linda Bellos acknowledge

the collaboration of some African

leaders with that trade, or the fact

that Britain was the first great power

to abolish it within her territories at

the turn of the 19th century, or the

role of the Royal Navy in seeking to

together in harmony if we face both

the good and the bad in our shared

suppress it in subsequent years?

We will only be able to live

prisoners of war were being

BARRY WILLIAMSON

transported

RSFOSTER Sheffield

against France. The French had

recruited many freed slaves into

The ship was not carrying slaves.

historic weeks in British racial history", 11 March) does little to help

connection with the slave trade. Over

workers or taxpayers. All pensions are a transfer of resources from one part of the population to another.

Any saving for retirement, (public or private, unfunded or funded) entails a claim on the goods and services produced by future generations of workers whether the claim is met through taxation, dividends or

Few would disagree with the notion that all economically active people should be encouraged to spread their own wealth from employment more evenly over their life by investing part of it, as long-term savings, in either employer-sponsored pension plans or personal retirement accounts. Few also, I ... suspect, would disagree with the In France in the 1930s there was a principle that the state, as agent of the entire community, is the appropriate source of all social protection, including basic retirement income. TONY SALTER Richmond, Surrey

> Sir: The "burden" of pensions on the taxpayer is a myth that needs

Pensions, benefits and wages all derive from the gross national product, which is growing at around a per cent a year while the workforce gets steadily smaller in the ongoing drive for greater efficiency.

Pensions and benefits on average are much lower than wages for individuals, so that those leaving the workforce reduce their demand on the GNP, leaving more available for

others, not less.

An equitable distribution of wealth from the GNP is a national concern, and the pension sector cannot be left to the whims of marke forces and private insurance schemes, where profit-making is the main objective and total collapses can occur.

Common sense on

a foggy motorway

signs in fog are frequently

system to react in time.

Sir: Francis Roads (letter, 13 March)

points out that motorway speed limit

inappropriate because of the delay in

that patches of poor visibility drift

around too quickly for any warning

Common sense is a more reliable

safeguard than warning signs. The big problem is that the normal visual

clues drivers use for assessing speed

and distance are absent. One way to

keep out of trouble is to imagine a

brick wall across the carriageway at

yourself: can I stop before I hit it?

Chesham, Buckinghamshire

the limit your visual range and to ask

ng them. But the nature of fog is

LESLIE A POPE Wolverhampton

Desperate to get away: two Albanian men trying to climb on board a boat leaving for Italy yesterday at the Albanian port of Durres, near Tirana

Photograph: Santiago Lyon/AP

Children in peril as the line to Albania goes dead

last three weeks has taken us hy

Sir: It is frightening to witness the self-destruction in Albania. ChildHope has supported a small and dedicated group of Alhanians who are running a scheme working with street children which we set up in 1992, back in the early days of the country's emergence from the Communist regime. Over the last year, we certainly felt in our bones that something nasty was brewing in the country, but the ferocity of the expectations of Albania were too

surprise. This afternoon [Friday] we discovered that our daily fax or telephone contact has been broken. This has left us in London with a real sense of doom, knowing that the project, the staff and the children in their care are isolated and left to an uncertain fate.

We can suggest no quick-fix solutions, but clearly the West's

great to be fulfilled in such a short lime. It will be shameful if we all turn our back simply because the Alhanians discovered something called fraud in their headlong rush

into the market economy. It will he a challenge to help them pick up the pieces, and this time take our time about getting it right. NICHOLAS FENTON

versus religion" discussion: There is no quicker way for a scientist

to bring discredit upon bimself and

upon his profession that roundly to de-

clare - particularly when no declaration of any kind is called for - that science

knows of soon will know the answers

to all questions worth asking, and that

questions which do not admit a scien-

tific answer are in some way non-ques-

tions or "pseudoquestions" that only simpletons ask and only the guilible pro-

An error in transcription of a letter

lohn Inge, of Ely Cathedral, produced

of religious people who could be relied

upon to produce intelligent, informed

and constructive contributions to any

debate". This should have read "there

the statement that "there is a shortage

published on 11 March from Canon

(Advice to a young scientist. 1979)

fess to be able to answer.

IAN FLINTOFF

is 110 shortage ...

London SW6

ChildHope UK London EC1

Local power must wield a veto Dawkins: the last word from a scientist

Sir. Sir John Gray (letters, 8 March) is right to demand a debate on the merits of local government forming the electoral college for a reformed second chamber of Parliament.

The many proposals aimed at strengthening local government from proportional representation to elected mayors - aim to mimic European and American models. What is usually ignored is that the strength of local government abroad lies not in its internal structure but in its relationship to central government

Federal systems such as the US and Germany have constitutional constraints on the ability of the centre to meddle in local affairs. Senior national politicians in France depend on holding local office such as that of mayor for their success.

In all three cases local authority is naranteed by a system which gives the locality a veto on changes which affect its status, through direct representation in the second chamber. Such a system should be considered by the Labour government. All the proposals put orward to enhance the status of local government will be irrelevant if they can be undone at Whitehall's whim. Councillor DEREK ANTROBUS (Lab, City of Sulford) Swinton, Greater Manchester

Sir: Your leading article of 6 March draws attention to the "dearth of city-

wide democracy" to address London's choking public transport problems; and you note the difficulty of Sir: Perhaps the late, and great, scientist Peter Medawar may be incorporating boroughs like Uxbridge who, historically, have been most allowed a last word in the Dawkins

reluctant to be included" in London. The high-handed way the GLC was abolished need not lead to uncritical acceptance of the view that most local government has now to be centred on conurbations". Most people live in expanded villages. The inwardness that incubates in giant cities leads some to forget that transport links with the major air and sea ports are in just as much need of attention as those within the metropolis.

These considerations suggest an alternative: allow such outer boroughs as fear subsumption to rejoin the counties they were taken from. To the north of the city, amalgamate the counties of Essex. Hertford and Middlesex, having the council meet rotationally in Uxbridge, Chelmsford, Watford and other towns. To the south, likewise, join Surrey in with Kent.

A "leaner and fitter" Greater London could then concentrate on the prodigious problems of the inner city; while there would be just three major authorines, each representing a population about the size of Wales. responsible for thrashing out a fully integrated transport policy fit for the coming century. DAVID HAMILTON

Hedy's partner in torpedo project

Sir: Your article (28 February) about Hedy Lamarr and George Antheil and their torpedo guidance system contained an error. George Antheil was not married to Hedy Lamarr. He was married to - and stayed married to - Boski Marcus, who lived until about 1981. George died in 1959. He was definitely a lady's man and no doubt a Lamarr lover, not husband.

As a pianist who has recently recorded and edited Antheil's piano music. I'm sure that George would have loved your story, since he made up a few of them himself (such as being eaten by lions in Africa as a publicity stunt before the Ballet

Mécanique Paris première). His son, Peter Antheil, told me in a Peter and Lamarr's son have long

MARTHANNE VERBIT Newport, Rhode Island, USA

LETTER from

Tow then. Sometimes one just has to apolo-gise, fulsomely, abjectly, the brow sweat-beaded, shoulders lolling, lips wet with penitence. On Tuesday, we went for Gordon Brown on the front page, reporting criticism of his team's leaking against other Lahour MPs, and comparing the shadow Chancellor, in a photo-montage, with a characer in the film Reservoir Dogs.

So listen, guys. I'm sorry. It was unfair - wrong - hadly rescarched. It was in fact Mr Orange whose head we replaced with Gordon Brown's, thus leaving two Mr Browns, alongside Mr Blond and Mr White and Co. As I say, just bad

I'll say this for New Labour, it can still make jokes at its own expense. I was invited (nonpaying guest) to listen to Tony Blair at a fund-raising London hash on Wednesday night. Among those present, and speaking, was Prescott, J. The Labour leader paid him a handsome tribute, lauding his loyalty and forbearance. As an example. Blair said that Prescott had been travelling south from his constituency and caught the very end of a news bulletin on the car radio - something about the "decision to privatise state pensions". Cursing, Prescott reflected that he'd been cut out of yet another Labour policy shift. Only later was it gently explained to him that this was a

Conservative announcement. Meanwhile, all around, was the unmistakeable murmuring sound of an establishment changing sides. Perhaps the most politically revealing, sign-of-thetimes comment came from another guest, whose firm spe-cialises in privatisations. That company, once fiercely pro-Conservative, had changed its policy, he told me cheerfully: "We no longer back parties, we back gov-ernments. Phew! Just in time!

Reflections on titles, week two. Letters have come in both for and against the idea that The Independent should ahandon printing people's titles - Lords, Professors, Drs and so on. Pros and antis arrive in roughly equal quantities. The letters against titles tend to be breezily democratic; readers who want them kept say we should give as much

information as possible and that, in the words of Charles Brodie of Warwickshire, getting

rid of them would "add greatly to the dullness of nations". For myself, I am resolutely irresolute, Many are simply oul of date pompositics – if Roy Jenkins is better known than Lord Jenkins, stick with Roy, But it seems sensible to use titles where not doing so would confuse the reader and where they add really useful information. They are, or ought to be, little more than formalised adjectives. Tahloid papers, after all, have developed a utilitarian title language of their own. Not Mr Jones, but "Lout Jones". Not

Perhaps in future people will address each other using tabloid titles.

'Fine morning, Love Cheat McDonald'. 'Indeed it is, Wild Child Reilly'

Miss Fox, but "Page Three Stun ner Sam". And these are, in their way, as specific and useful as "Esquire" or "Mistress" once were. Perhaps, in the course of time, these will become fixed and traditional too; so that, in the 2050s people will unthinkingly address one another: "Fine morning. Love Cheat McDon-ald ... "Indeed it is. Wild Child Reilly.

On the other hand, I have been reminded that anti-traditional naming rarely works. while finishing a magnificent and harrowing book about the Russian Revolution - A People's Tragedy, by Orlando Figes. Figes recounts the names Bolsheviks chose for their children when they were "Octobered" (rather than christened). These included ohvious plays on Lenin. Marx and Trotsky. But some, believing that the West was more advanced, chose any Western word to hand. Thus there were little Bolsheviks toddling around in the Twenties who answered to Traviata. Emhryo, and Vinaigrette.

Andrew Marr

Scattered relics of British electronic achievements

Sir. T C H Going (letter, 11 March) regrets the UK's failure to present our achievements in the field of telecoms and electronics with a national museum. He may gain some Sir: I must acknowledge Britain's role consolation from the news that the Royal Corps of Signals is expanding and renovating the Museum of Army Communications at Blandford m Dorset through the generosity of serving and retired officers and soldiers of the corps, the defence electronics industry and the National

Lottery Heritage Fund. The history of military signalling tells much of our nation's telecoms history, since many of the advances in

the technology of communications and cryptography have been driven by our defence needs. J H GRIFFIN

Sir. T C H Going is quite right when he says Britain needs a National Museum of Communications. There is already a very good Museum of Submarine Telegraphy at Porthcurno, and Marconi was at Poldhu, and BT has an Earth Station at Goothilly - all this in Cornwall. Perhaps it would be sensible to locate the national museum in Penzance, so that visits could also be made to these

other historic and contemporary sites of activity. DT MIKE WEAVER Linacre College Oxford

Sir. Since BT is closing the BT Museum, I recommend it give the 800 exhibits to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, with an endowment for a gallery dedicated to telecommunications. Visitors to London can already enjoy displays of telecommunications technology at the Science Museum. ALEXANDER CHABLO Manchester

hone conversation in January that Heav and George gave the patent to the Navy out of patriotism, a fact that

QUOTE UNQUOTE

This irresponsible scaremongering will not only damage the meat industry here in Britain, but will also damage our standing in Europe Douglas Hoge, Minister of Agriculture, condenuts his critics

The damage done to the English countryside by the Common Agricultural Policy is the best argument that Jimmy Goldsmith's Referendum Party possesses - Roy Hattersley, Labour MP

I like the dark one. She's the only one who shows any sign of intelligence - Lord Healey, Labour peer, when asked for his views about the Spice Girls

I do not believe power-dressing will happen again. This is not the time for women to be surrogate men - Lynne Franks, public

I was always sure he would be 100 per cent successful because he is the first gay product that can be sold over the counter instead of under it - John McKitterick, designer of the anatomically explicit Billy, the world's first gay doll

This train will be going nowhere for seven minutes because there aren't very many trains behind us - announcement to London Underground passengers at Chancery Lane station

I'm not a workaholic. I'm lazy. I'm just time efficient - John McLaren, merchant banker, who has sold the book and film rights for his first novel for £1 m

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 8171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are mable to acknowledge annualished letters.





The juvenile, the complacent and the snobbish cavort in shallow debates, and Oxford's students love it, says Peter Popham, after hearing the case for blondes. Where has all the politics gone?

n Thursday night in Oxford, large teenagers practise wheelies down the steps of the station, over and over again, the multiple competing bus companies jam the streets with their clashing liveries and the yoof population of this surprisingly coarse-grained Midlands town hunkers down for another long night of boozing and

brawling.

Within the Victorian neo-Gothic confines of the Oxford Union Society, however, that world seems far away. One hears tell that in the 1920s, Communist members of the union, dressed in white tie and tails, poured out into the streets of the town and beat up members of the working class, with the idea of aggravating class tensions and thus precipitating the revolution. It didn't work, of course, and 70 years later the toffs and would-be toffs remain cloistered behind the red brick walls and leaded lights.

On Thursday, they gathered for a hit of silliness, the "Farcwell" debate, last of the term and of the current presidency. The theme is not original: "This House believes that blondes have more fun". But it enables the union to advertise the debate inside the programme with a particularly lubricious photograph of Marilyn Monroe, and to dangle the prospect of a bevy of guest beauties, headed by Jerry Hall, before the work-jaded eyes of the membership.

At least Jerry Hall is the name on the poster taped to the front door; but in the later editions scattered around the huilding it is ominously missing. Yes, Jerry has come down with a cold, and the union has been hit by another in its nasty run of no-shows. As one of the speakers put it in the debate, submitting the departing president to his customary bout of humiliation, "Damon Hill, Patrick Stewart, Sting, Jerry Hall — what an excellent term you almost had, Mr President."

The House assembles to discuss blondes and fun. We are here, while the debate grinds and grunts and farts its way to a sort of conclusion, to consider the question, does the Oxford Union have a joh to do any more? Is it doing it? Or is it just a concatenation of puffed-up, prematurely pompous young Tories, best left to stew in their own juice?

Criticism of the union is probably nearly as old as the thing itself, which goes back 174 years. But the thing itself would not be worth the trouble of crincising if it had not attained a highly peculiar stature. This is a place where a bunch of undergraduates gather to trade prejudices, slurs and dirty jokes; hut by some strange



The state of the Union

chemistry of desire and image and determination, it is one of the most famous dehating forums in the world: a place to which world-class statesmen, politicians and public figures, including Bobby Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Mother Teresa and Malcolm X, made pilgrimages while in the prime of their careers. They came not to recycle the usual speech for the usual fee (the union pays nothing hut expenses) but to engage in genuine cut and thrust, to risk their reputations at the hands of student pipsqueaks, and sometimes to be brought down.

At times it was almost an alternative parliament of the young. Harold Wilson dispatched his foreign secretary, Michael Stewart, to defend the government's pro-American policy on Vietnam, and a torrid time he had of it. When he was president, Tariq Ali hosted Malcolm X, then at the height of his influence.

Hungry and ambitious aspiring politicians such as Edward Heath, Roy Jenkins, Michael Heseltine and William Hague seized the opportunities the union offered both to debate and to ruh shoulders with the powerful and famous. Debates of particular consequence were regularly transmitted live on the BBC. It was the only student debating chamber in the world with such charisma.

That is the context in which the Oxford Union has to be discussed, because the place is still in love with and in thrall to its past. Even on a night

like this. The union is a cluster of diminutive huildings, comprising a bar with scarlet walls which are hung with old photographs, a large and comfortable library, and out in the garden, on its own, the debating hall, which from the out-

side looks like a small Victorian railway station.
Tonight the hall's entrance is filled with large photographs of foaming pints of Guinness (the beer is free to participants, within reason). Inside there is a high chamber with a balcony. The benches for the union's officers, who must wear white ties, are ranged opposite each other by the chairman's seat, as in the House of Commous. The rest, filling the hall, face the chair.

Il is as it has been for many decades, with one or two special touches just for tonight. The husts of ancient eminences around the walls, for example, are wearing Union Jack bowler hats. A multi-coloured bouncy eastle is being inflated hehind the chair. One large Guinness ad has invaded the hall. A smoke

machine has been concealed somewhere.

Of the matter of the dehate itself it would be charitable to say as little as possible. Simon Johnson, an epicene hlond youth, president of the Edmund Burke Society, who has conceived a perverse fixation on Nicholas Soames, is fluently funny and rude, in the preferred snobbish mode, speaking of the retiring president's "family tree – that's where he lives", and of his father, "a light

blue, due to restricted circulation".

He is followed for the anti-hlondes by a narrow-shouldered, carrot-haired geek in gold glasses called Charles Hoare, who has the misfortune to be related to Douglas Hogg (his nickname is Mad Cow). Hogg was president here, as was his father, Lord Hailsham, hut on Thursday night's showing Mad Cow will not be following in their footsteps unless all his contemporaries are wiped out, perhaps by CJD. He mentions "homosexuals" and "les-

bians" many times, like a 12-year-old, as if the

words themselves were intrinsically hilarious. The only other speaker from the university is the president-elect, Sam Gyimah, who sports a blond wig (and a mun's habit) although he is actually black. His speech is no worse or better than any of the rest; hut given the routine trashing handed out to the sexually divergent, one is pleasantly surprised to note that the House refrains from making jokes about his colour.

The other speakers included two women pretending to be mutants and two blonde page-

The other speakers included two women pretending to be mutants and two blonde pagethree girls, one of whom, Joanne Guest, wearing hlack knickers and bra and head-to-toe fishnet, declares, "I can equivocably state, that I am blonde." Floella Benjamin shrewdly sizes up her audience and treated them to her *Play School* routine, which went down very well. The only really perceptive remark of the evening comes from the comedienne Jenny Ross, who spoke of her pity for Patsy Kensit "when she realises she's lumbered herself with a complete and utter twat for a fiancee".

Finally the lights go down, a strobe comes on, the chamber fills with smoke, and the president is carted away. I have rarely spent an evening more childishly entertained since the age of 10 - but Farewell debates, as it was strenuously pointed out, are always like that. A glance through the rest of the programme for the term shows, however, that it is not alone. Why, the equivocable Joanne Guest was here for a second night running (on Wednesday she fielded questions about how many men she had made love to at the same time). Other debates this term included such intellectual killers as "This House believes that the Beatles contributed more to British music than Oasis ever will", and "Enid Blyton's stories are still appropriate for today's child".

Devolution and Europe drew relatively hig hitters and strong performances, and Lord Tebbit, predictably enough, was a massive hit. But much of the programme was taken up by the

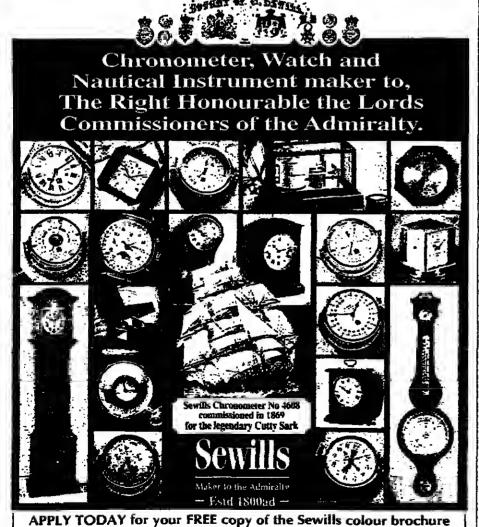
likes of Ffyona Campbell, Coronation Street, quiz nights, comedians, and the no-showing Sting. Increasingly, the intellectual and political pretensions of the past are becoming an empty pose, a tradition that must of course be perpetuated (like all traditions) hut which for the sake of hums on seats is increasingly overshadowed by froth and nonsense.

he arrival of Max Clifford last year, with OJ Simpson in tow, was an augury of the way the place must go: more celebs, the dodgier and tackier the hetter; more booklaunch tie-ins (Stephen Fry, here recently, could have filled the place twice); less and less evidence that the union believes in its guts that its amazing reputation is still relevant.

It is not surprising that many of Oxford's students have no time for the union at all, regarding it, in the words of one graduate, as "crapulous, shabby and pathetic". Anthony Howard was president in 1955, and as he sees it the union's decline is a function of the decline of the nation. "Something happened around the mild-Fiftics," he says, "perhaps around the time of the Suez crisis. Up until then, it knew its place in the scheme of things. The problem is that the tradition it was carrying proved topheavy in the Eighties and Ninetics. I think the union only really had meaning when Britain was a great power, and it's been looking for its way

So with the political and intellectual pretensions of the union growing threadbare, what remains are the social ones. No sign of decline there: "Snobbish, class-ridden, puffed-up, undemocratic", fumed one former non-member, "a place for teenagers who want to be middle-aged, to be their fathers before their time." It is an irredeemable place, where the complacent and snobbish go through the rituals that confirm them in their pride and privilege. It is going to last for ever.

Double
first:
models
Joanne
Guest and
Debee
Ashby at
this term's
farewell
debate,
'This House
believes
that
blondes
have more
fun'
Photograph:
John
i awrence



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jo brand's week

I have spent half this week in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, at the Angles Theatre. performing a play written with my triend, actress Helen Griffin. We did it in Wisbech because the bloke that runs the theatre is a friend and also it's nice to get out of London and avoid the beady eyes of the London critic fraternity. I have had some lovely encounters with the residents of Wisbech, including an approach the other day from a very respectable middleaged man who came up to me and said. "Jo Brand, I think you are a marvellous comedience, and I say this as a man of the cloth." Good Lord, this is a hit of a turn up for the books. I have spent my entire comedy career assuming that I am persona non grata with the clergy and now 1 discover I've got a fan with a dog collar. Time for a

It makes a refreshing change to see someone speaking and against the sickening commercialisation that has overtaken hage companies like the Disney Corporation. The ferocious marketing approach they take these days results in parents being

rethink on my assimilation

into the establishment I think

put under pressure to buy everything that these companies produce. And the links with other big organisations to push the product even more, mean we are saturated with the latest:

Well, the family of Victor Hugo in France have had

enough. They have seen the fruits of the great writer's imagination turned into pure nercialism by McDonald's and the supermarket chain, Monoprix, Esmerelda has become a Demi Moore lookalike and Quasimodo a rather Hobbit-like cuddly thing. In the days that we watched Disney as kids, the films were not accompanied by a whole range of crappy plastic toys. I am sure the protests of the Hugo family will fall on deaf ears as the great money-making machine

Fat Germans are not happy and have got themselves organised enough to have their own congress. They have again asked Chancellor Helmut Kohl to become their patron after he turned down the offer last year. Fat people

moves on to the next venture,

but at least someone is

making a little stand.

in Germany are demanding bigger seats on trains and planes and higger car interiors. According to my brother, who lives in Germany, Helmut Kohl's nickname is Birne, which means "pear", because of his shape, although his name actually means "cahbage". I don't suppose even normalsized people would mind bigger seats on planes and airline companies would have to enlarge them all, because it would be a nightmare if people such as myself were led to the fatties scats at the back of the plane like lepers. Still, at least we might get extra portions at meal times.

Every time we have an election in this country, commentators tend to remark that it is the dirtiest one ever.

whether the voters will fall for it. I like to think that we are politically slightly more literate than the Aussies, but given the whole Blair hair furore I have my doubts.

I am looking forward to this five on the wall documentary.

Despite this, with each

ever more scummy we with which to fell the

into prospective ...

approaching election, new ideas pop up to ensure that

npposition are available. This

year it seems a new idea has

flown round the world from

parliamentary candidates.

The basic idea seems to be

interviewed on the phone with

straightforward questionnair

and then at the end are

thrown a few unsavoury facts

about a candidate under the

auspices of an objective call.

America. Which party do you

think is planning to use push

polling in Britain? Yep, funnily enough it's the Tories.

This is known as "push polling" and originated in

that the electorate are

what appears to be a

Australia to help put the boot

This smacks of a certain

desperation and one wonders

fly on the wall documentary in a few weeks, which portrays a group of your average Rory supporters having dinner, unashamedly slagging off gays and hlack people, and happily denying that there is such a thing as poverty. Apparently, these diners do not hold back and I wonder why. Weren't they embarrassed by how horrible they would look? Stupidity may be an explanation for . their bravado, I suppose, and. easier to stomach perhaps, than the fact that these people are actually proud of having these views. The programme was filmed in East Anglia where there are very few black people and doubtless few openly gay people. I did ask the audience in Wisbech how many black people there were in the town. Two, apparently, Having seen this documentary, one assumes they might well want to move.

حكة امن الأصل

david aaronovitch

Soames says it, it doesn't necessarily follow that it ain't so. On Thursday, after an adverse ruling in the High Court, the armed forces minister repeated his view that allowing openly gay men and women to join or remain in the military would affect its "morale, cohesion and

This is a big charge. As my friend (and Labour's defence spokesperson) Dr John Reid MP said to me in the committee corridor of the Commons last year, it's all very well for us liberal types to sit in our Islington wine bars and call down injunctions on the Chiefs of Staff, but what if having gays in the military really would mean that our ability to defend ourselves is undermined? Wine bars are uncomfortable places when under fire from a howitzer manned by a mad Albanian. So we must take this

argument seriously. For it does not depend on red herrings, like the "gays are no good at fighting" argument. True, one of the ex-naval gay men campaigners is called Duncan Lusing-Prean, whose very name suggests a life spent dressing up and going to naughty clubs, but in reality Duncan turns out to be very brave. He and his friends are not chiefly concerned with choosing the colour of the curtains in the Naafi, or trying to persuade Galliano to design the next generation of battledress. The annals of history resound to the names of through the Lionheart to

General Kitchener. But what about the intrusive relationship argument? You're in the thick of battle and you must decide whether to fire your grenade launcher in support of X or wield your combat knife to defend Y. Oh, and Y is your boyfriend. Poor.

Or the jealous lover variant: the crew of the Memphis Belle are flying over Schweinfurth. Bandit at five o'clock!" calls the pilot, "Nail him, Chuck!" "Not until you apologise for your terrible behaviour

yesterday," comes the reply. Two responses to this. First, just imagine how awful it would have been if, say, Montgomery and Patton had: been jealous of each other. The whole Arnhem operation might have become a fiasco. Thank God they were

Which leaves us with the discomfort argument. As Michael Portillo put it last year, "People are working in a situation of absolute trust. They are living almost literally on top of one another." Given that closeness, if current servicemen and women get antsy with gays around, that might be enough to lower cohesion, morale and all that

particular areas of concern were sharing tents ("camping tonight"), submarines (the shape?) and something called "hot bunking". This sounds fair enough (who would not be frightened of a bit of involuntary hot bunking?) until one learns that this actually describes a situation in which, when one man leaves a hunk, another gets into it. Thus precluding most prolonged forms of sexual activity, rather than encouraging them.

As one sergeant put it, "Men don't like taking showers with men who like taking showers with men". But wait a minutel We don't want them to like showering, because - if they did - we would not like to

whose logic goes thus: we agree that women should not be forced to shower with men, I wer And for w Because they would be uncomfortable being naked in front of people for whom they might be a source of sexual attraction. Well then, doesn't it follow that the same women should not be forced to shower with other women by whom they might conceivably

Mmm. But why then does this not apply to schools, or universities, or sports clubs, or hospitals, where we straights may be forced - willy-nilly, so to speak - to become the unwilling objects of lustful stares? I often feel myself to be at risk of envious or strange glances in the shower, hut I have racked my memory and I can't remember this ever having been a problem. Certainly not one that just

straight! But, more seriously. there is no suggestion that homosexual acis should he permitted, any more than heterosexual ones.

Deng Xiaoping. I'm thinking of

having it engraved on the wav-ing Deng watch I bought in Hong Kong recently. My watch - the little Deng smiling up at me, his clock-work arm moving

up and down - is a lot more emblematic than all those wail-

ing apparatchiks at his funeral, Sometimes I think all Com-munism left behind was the

misery, the corruption and the

kitsch - Gorby toilet paper, busts of Lenin, Che berets, Mao on watches and on walls.

"He who does not get rich is a

dumh bear." They should have put the slogan on a tombstone for Deng instead of crumbling

him up like an old potato chip

No wonder Deng wanted Hong Kong for his own so much. Money money money. And shopping. I've never seen so much money, so much stuff, never met so many rich people

as in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's the richest refugee

camp in the world," an acquaintance said. "The par-

ents or grandparents all ran away from China, from the Communists. Money's the only

security, you can't have enough, you've got to keep

piling it up."

I was in Hong Kong, in fact, to research the rich for a thriller.

The American hero of my book

is in love with a rich Chinese

American babe. She's married

to a very, very rich Hong Kong

guy, a member of the New Comprador class whose only ideology is money, who knows China is the future and thinks

The old breed of comprador

brokered opium to the East and all kinds of goodies (silks, spices) back to the West. This

new breed, official or criminal

-it doesn't really matter - bro-

ker everything in all directions, and the devil's in the detail:

CDs, sportswear, computers, money, babies, illegals, body

parts. What they really broker

is the great 21st-century con-

gies built to destroy each other.

shopping as the real ideology;

call it global commerce if you

In the countdown to July, as

want to get fancy.

stead of fleeing Communism

national borders are a joke.

or a stale fortune cookie.

A recent survey showed that

And, above all, the showers.

shower with them.

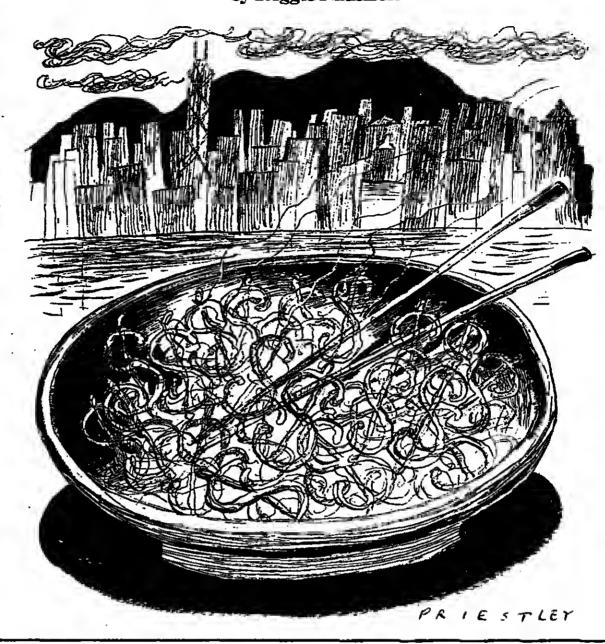
Which brings me to Dr
John Reid's Shower Test,

the New Compradors rev up the millennial merger, no one be considered desirable? knows if it's going to produce a new world order or a mutant freak, or both. One thing's sure: neither the new compradors nor the new Commies has democracy top of the shopping list. But, then, who ever promised us more than 200 years of democracy and wouldn't you rather nip off to Australia for the beach or Vail, Colorado for the skiing? Most of the rich guys I met in Hong Kong told me things will be just turning around didn't solve.
So, Nick, turn around. If fine when the British go home in July, but then most of them have cut their deals with the there's anyone watching.

Mao and Deng are dead, long live shopping

by Reggie Nadelson

حكدًا من الأصل



Money money money. And shopping. I've never seen so much money, so much stuff, never met so many rich people as in Hong Kong

Chinese, and all have property like their parents or grandpar-ents, the New Compradors see outside China with passports to

The New Compradors -Deng was surely their godfather - are charming, cool and mod-ern, having been educated in the US or Britain. They wear Brooks Brothers shirts. Italian suits. Baseball hats. Some ride Harleys. Some race horses. Others collect modern art. Most are married to gloriously hospitable high-maintenance babes the Tai Tai, the ladies who lunch, the most beautiful women I've met, and the most down to earth. They tell you "a full-time maid is the best Valium" (I met two ladies who share eight maids between them), and ask you straight out how much you make or what you drive.

The guys talk the talk and they can do it in soundbites appetising enough for the wari-

Deng is grinning up at me from the watch I hought at est Westerner. But they are not Western, as one of them pointed out to me. I met Jack Shanghai Tang, a shop devoted (we'll call him Jack) at the top to the marketing of old China and high-end Commie kitsch, of his skyscraper, one of those and owned by David Tang, the competitive architectural marvels Hong Kongers have built chief cheerleader for the New to their god. (Mammon never Compradors. Tang speaks like lived so well.) Charmingly, in the Queen Mum. Or Jceves. maybe. He was born in Hong perfect American English, "Jack" explained how the Chi-Kong, where his grandtather nese are different from Westmade millions with a hus comerners, how they see things pany, His own father, Billy, was through different eyes, out of a different culture. I think he reputedly a gambler and ruce horse owner who had a Chiwas saying we should butt out. nese restaurant in London especially when it comes to called Mr Tang's, David didn's get to England until he was 14: he barely spoke English. He learnt fast. He hecame a cluhstuff like democracy. He doesn't have to worry. The West, with Bill Clinton in the lead, can't seem to do enough to bable kind of guy.
"Made by Chinese" is Tang's kowtow to the Chinese - just think about campaign contributions, just think about those

motto, it's on every label at Shanghai Tang, where you can nights in the Lincoln bedroom. purchase silver-plated chop-To get rich is glorious." sticks or linens embroidered

with coolies, and the hespoke tailor can whip you up a Cheongsam in Juscious red silk or a pink velver Mao suit. Tang himself wears a modified Chinese suit, call it Mao or Mandarin, and he smokes Cuhan cigars. (He's the Cuban consul in Hong Kong, which carries with it the distribution rights to Havanas). As a husinessman. Tang understands it's money that matters. He told me he

the theme park. At Shanghai Tang and at his China Club, where the Hong Kong rich drink huhhly at the Long March Bar, he plays off our feverish dreams of the Orient that never was. Noel Coward meets Indiana Jones.

The mystery of the Orient.
The Shunghai of the Thirties when Noel Coward did sit around the Cathay Hotel writing Private Lives, when there

feels that it is only now that Britain has begun to pay

money its due respect. But as

Hong Kong's major domo to its social scene, escort to Fergie and to Di, Tang also knows that

10 keep things dynamic in a culture already stuffed with stuff. you have to broker not just

Tang is a master of the art of

hard cash but style.

were evil gangsters and beautiful women. Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth. Somerset Maugham meets Mao Zedong.

"I hope to become the Ralph Lauren of the East." Tang has said, and as Lauren huilt an empire reinventing what he perceived as British upper-class life, so Tang is remaking old China. Tang's China Cluh - it costs around £35,000 a year just to join - is on the 13th floor of the Bank of China Building. It is alleged that in the had old days, back before Mao and Deng got the new religion. Communist agents worked day and night here to destroy the running dogs of imperialism.

From the terrace of the club you can see the Hong Kong skyline. All that neon. All that light Hong Kong looks like it could hum itself up, Inside, by midnight, the club huzzes with heautiful people. Waiters in Mao jackets pad across orien-tal rugs. Ceiling fans twirl, sil-ver spittoons glisten, there are red silk cushions in the dining room and silver chopsticks. And from the wall, in a huge pontrait in oils, Mao Zedong beams down, benign, fat, happy in the presence of so much glorious money, as the club mynab bird sings runes from Peking opera. or was it Madame Butterfly?

Recently I heard that David lang is about to expand, mov ing into New York, maybe London or LA. Mao is dead. So is Deng. If anyone had any hrains. they'd make Tang the next real head of China. This guy has his finger on the pulse. He is new China man, the New Comprador. Tang is no dumh bear. He is, in fact, if you'll excuse the pun, one very smart cookie.

Reggie Nadelson's thriller 'Hot Poppies' is published on Monday (Faber & Faber, £14.99).

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Monday 7 April

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Tuesday 8 April

In the evening transfer to Vienna airport for the late evening flight to

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The strange death of political loyalties

he end of the party is in sight. Whatever the outcome of this election it will be the last time that political machines with labels will be pre-eminent in our democracy. In a generation, loyalty to political parties as we know them will be dead. And ironically, among the principal assassins will be the creators of the most fearsome electoral machines of modern times - Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher.

It is no surprise that Baroness Thatcher looks so fondly on the Labour leader, he is, after all, merely completing a process she started - the remorseless subjugation of party interests to the will of a leadership that carries on a dialogue with the electorate, unmediated by the self-interested murmuring of party barons.

This is not just another way of saying that there is now no difference between the main political parties. Life under a Blair administration would not be the same as life under a Major government. Labour looks as though it may be even tougher on publie spending than the Tories. Blair's constitutional ambitions are radically different to Major's. And their styles of government will be marked by a huge generational difference, reflecting an average age difference between the Labour and Tory top teams of several years. There is clear water available here for anyone who looks.

However, voting is not only about a rational political choice, or about economic self-interest. It is also a cultural act. For most of this century, people have tended to think of them-



Trevor Phillips

The single large party expressing a united view seems ridiculous today. What is the Labour or Tory line on cloning?

selves as belonging either to a Tory or a Labour tradition. You were either a Labour tradition. You were either a notorious focus groups no doubt show working class or middle class. Voting for the other lot seemed eccentric, even indecent; the sort of act reserved for snooty little madams who had got above themselves, or for eternally

idealistic Fabian types.

Even non-traditional groupings have their prejudices. Indian voters have what used to be thought of as a superconservative profile - more affluent. better-educated, entrepreneurial. Their homes, cars and private schooling shout "Tory voter". Yet they resolutely continue to choose Labour in huge numbers. Why? Because, in spite of Mr Major's own clean bill of health on the issue, they still regard the Conservatives as terminally infected by racial bias.

New loyalties can be created, but there is something more fundamental going on. Although the growth in support for single-issue pressure groups is often overstated, it is none the less significant. The pollsters tell us that three out of five young people won't show up at the voting booth unless someone promises free Oasis albums on production of a completed voting slip. The cultural ties are not being rebuilt or transferred; they are simply wearing thin, to the point of invisibility.

The personal triumph of both Blair and Thatcher lies precisely in hastening this cultural fragmentation. She persuaded the lower middle classes, increasingly out of sorts with a workerist Labour party, that they could happily vote Tory. Similarly, Blair seems to have convinced the new middle may even be facing a golden opportu-classes that they can retain their iden-

notorious focus groups no doubt show that much of Blair's appeal lies in the fact that he is not rooted in any of the great Labour traditions - tic is not Fahian intellectual, nor union apparat-chik, nor even regional baron. Whatever he is, it is new. But it is him, and what he is, not his party, that counts to Labour's new converts.

One consequence is that political parties are in danger of becoming virtually useless as a ready-made means of defining our stance on some big issues. How does the Labour-Tory divide help us to define where we stand on Europe? It does not. On crime or education? On the advances in technology that have produced cloning and new methods of reproduction? MPs will search to vain for a coherent philosophical position from

their party HQs.

Political parties represent historical identities. Those historical identities become more evidently anachronistic every week, and the single large party that claims coherently to express a united view on every large question looks more ridiculous every day. As the work of the think-tank Demos and others has shown, we are now a people of multiple identities. We are workers, but we are also shareholders; we are Scots or Londoners, but we are also Britons and Europeans. A political process that tries to force us to suppress all but one of those identities is

bound to end up by alienating us. But it doesn't have to be this way. We

bund aspect of our political system is local government, all too often populated by anoraks, backs and careerists. Our towns and cities deserve better than to be run by people whose main qualification is the ability or desire to give up time to sit on committees. This week, the Fahian Society published a pamphlet, co-authored by the MP Margaret Hodge, supporting the concept of mayors directly elected by the voters. In London, this approach is supported by three quarters of the electorate. More importantly, Tony Blair likes it. It is, however, hated by the party machines. After all, genuinely popular candidates might be chosen; and then who knows what they might do by appealing over the head of the

party to the people? The danger of giving the people unfettered choice is illustrated by the fact that two of the bookies' top three candidates for the Mayor of London are dearly unsuitable: Richard Branson and myself. But while our own capital languishes for want of leadership, its competitor New York's revival has been engineered by a multi-party administration. The mayor is Republican, but his chosen deputy is a Democrat.

Every day hrings a new proposal that will loosen the grip of party discipline on the throat of politics. Increasingly, that grip feels more like the last convulsive clutch of a dying man. Proportional representation, devolution, the willingness of MPs to abandon the whip are more than straws in the wind. They are the harhingers of a new and more interesting way of running our lives,

business & city

Bonfield could get £550,000 BT bonus

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom, could gain long-term share bonuses worth almost £550,000 for the 14 manths since he joined the company, according to docu-ments mailed to shareholders this week.

The information is revealed in the listing particulars sent to BT's 2.3 million investors giving details of the proposed £13hn merger with MCL the US long-distance phone carrier. They show that by 27 February Sir Peter, who moved to BT from computer giant ICL in January 1996, could be grant-ed a maximum of 125.137 shares in the company depending on performance targets under the executive Long Term Remuneration Plan (LTRP).

Participants in the scheme. which has been crincised by large shareholders, have to wait five years before receiving the shares. Based on BT's share price of 437p during trading yes-terday. Sir Peter's maximum award would be worth £546,849. Sir Peter's minimum possible share award carned so far is 20,856 shares worth £91,141.

The possible award comes on top of Sir Peter's hasic salary, which rose by £95,000 from January to £570,000 and an annual cash bonus.

BT has denied speculation this week that some short-term bonuses, which are agreed this month by the executive pay committee, could be raised to as much as 100 per cent of basic pay to reflect the achieve-ment of the MCI deal.

Members have to invest a percentage of their annual bonus. which then multiplies depending on how BT shares perform

in the 100-share index. The maximum award comes if BT shares are in the top 40 in the index over five years. It was intended to cover about 40 senior executives and by last month some 2.7 million shares had heen provisionally allocated.

The other main heneficiary listed in the document is Robert Brace, finance director, who unlike Sir Peter joined the scheme at the outset. He stands tn earn between £132,647 and £739,233 from the LTRP, which gives him between 30,354 and 169,161 shares, hased no yesterday's share price. Sir Iain Vallance, chairman,

is not a member of the scheme, although he has 237,883 share options outstanding from the previous scheme.

Anne Simpson, joint man-aging director of the shareholder advisory group Pire, was one of the main critics of the LTRP.

She said: "We advised clients at the annual meeting in 1995 that the scheme was too lerient. The performance targets were relatively low and the multiplier effect of the plan, we calculated, could give partici-pants up to seven times their own investment in shares through a complex formula."

A BT spokeswoman defended the LTRP yesterday, claiming it was in line with industry best practice. "It's always been judged to be more taxing City workers shun formality to swap office garb for Red Nose Day celebration



Noses have it: St Paul's Cathedral provides the backdrop for a fun run by London workers raising funds for Comic Relief, which last night was on course to beat its £22m target. Elsewhere, office workers dressed down for the day

Photograph: Brian Harris

Sorrell set to collect another share windfall

Patrick Tooher

Martin Sorrell, chief executive of advertising giant WPP, is in line to scoop another share bonanza on Monday, worth £3.2m at last night's closing price, nn-der a reward scheme that could net him £25m over five years. The issue of 1.2 million free shares, which Mr Sorrell must keep until September 1999, will represent the second of up to four bumper payouts that he will receive if WPP hits certain performance targets.

Mr Sorrell will collect his latest windfall because WPP's share price has been above 2300 for 60 consecutive trading The LTRP began in September 1994, replacing an executive share option scheme which had company for five years."

days. Last September Mr Sorcell picked up his first tranche of 1.2 million shares after possible to achieve.

WPP's shares staved above a 198p trigger price for the same period. He could qualify for a third share bonus as early as June because another 60-day clock started ticking on Thursday when WPP's shares went back above a new trigger price of 265p. Last night WPP closed 3.5p lower at 272.5p, valuing the

company at just over £2bn.
However analysts said a third payout was not imminent. The market will make sure he only gets one lot of shares each year, just to ensure he keeps performing, said one broker.
At the time the share incentive scheme was approved two committee said the conditions Mr Sorrell, who has invested more than £2m of his own money in WPP's shares, also has salary benefits, bonuses and previously awarded share options that could push his five-year total to £25m, of which

£14m will be in free shares.
Some institutional investors have criticised the package as ap-pearing to reward Mr Sorrell for merely returning WPP's shares to the level they were at when he lined the company in 1985. WPP's share price peaked at over 900p in 1987 before collapsing to

just 27p five years later. But a series of financial restructurings allowed WPP to stage a recovery and last year it reported pre-tax profits of £153.3m compared to just £8m

Lex chief's pay soars by 17%

Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman of ris, finance director, with his Lex Service, saw his total pay jump by 16.9 per cent to £453,667 in 1996, according to the car dealership group's latest annual report and accounts. The accounts also show that

Sir Trevor, who split the roles of chairman and chief executive last year, received a £60,126 performance-related bonus. Andrew Harrison, who oined as chief executive from Courtaulds in September, re-ceived a total of £129,413, which

also included a £13,750 bonus. He was also gramed 128,534 share options exercisable in 1999 at a price of 389p each. Lex shares closed yesterday at 330p, down 1.5p. The second-highest paid haviour by creating larger mar-

board member was Peter Har- keting territories".

remuneration rising from £209,371 to £253,927. The pay increases came in a

year when group profits before exceptional items increased by 22 per cent to £51.2m, while earnings jumped by 14-per cent to 31.3p per share. Dividends were increased from 15p to 16p. In his first review of the basiness, Mr Harrison said in the an-

nual report that while returns from Lex Retail improved during 1996, they remained "mad-He said there would be further changes in the structure of

car dealerships "as manufac-

and changing consumer be-

Three staff leave **NatWest**

Michael Harrison

Nat West Markets, which has suspended five senior staff over the £90m options mis-pricing scandal, yesterday parted com-pany with another three senior executives following a shake-up in its global debt markets division. Johan Hattingh, head of Eu-

ropean fixed income, and Alby Cator, managing director of European primary markets, have left the investment bank as result of the changes. Separately, Roger Nagioff, head of European equity trading and derivatives, has quit to inin Lehman Brothers.

The overhaul follows Nat-West's acquisition last year of the US bond house Greenwich Capital and the creation of a new global debt markets divi-sion. Nat West stressed, howev-er, that the changes were not connected with the mis-pricing scandal which has resulted in bonuses worth £8m being docked from a handful of employees numbering between

Profit

five and 10.

The bank's new global debt markets division will be run by Gary Holloway and Chip Kruger, both of whom worked for Greenwich Capital. Mr Holloway will be responsible for US and Asian operations while Mr Kruger will be based in London and be in charge of European debt market operations.

As part of the management changes announced on Thursday following the disclosure of losses in Nat West's interest rate options business, Vincent Tomasi is switching from being head of US debt capital markets in New York to take over as acting head of global debt derivatives in London.

A spokeswoman said the hanges, announced to staff on Thursday, played to the strengths of NatWest and Greenwich and would improve the operation of the debt mar-kets division.

However, others point to low staff are keen to depart following the shadow cast by the options mis-pricing episode.

In the first in a series of weekly reports 'The Independent' assesses market perceptions of prospects for EMU

Big questions remain unanswered on Europe's monetary 'big bang'

In just 656 days, European countries plan to lock their exchange rates, abandon their currencies and commence a great minetary experiment that will affect economies and financial markets across the developed world.

But huge questions remain to be answered. Who will be in and out? How strong or weak will the new currency bc? Will it work in practice, or is it so badly designed that it could collarse under its own contradictions? Each week the Independent

will be reviewing these questions in the countdown in EMU. We will follow the changes in the financial markets, and publish the results of our regular poll of European analysts - the people who follow the week-by-

week developments in most detail - on EMU's progress. The graph (see right) that we will be updating each week, shows the latest financial market views. Over the last two years traders have been betting on a broad-based EMU beginning at the end of the century.

Since 1995, long-term interest rates in Italy, Spain, and Ireland have converged towards German interest rates at sn asionishing rate. But the last few months tell a very different



new jitters about the state of the Italian economy have increased the volatility in European bond markets. Moreover the trigger for a sudden change in the markets is as likely to be some new piece of economic data, as it is a statement of intent from a politician nr banker.

Bruce Kasman of JP Morgan said: The German government has placed great emphasis on the Maastricht criteria partly to convince the German public that EMU will be strong and fiscally prudent, but also to draw a line between countries that should be in or out." As a result. European statistics which provide clues about how close each country will come to the Maastricht criteria have hecome extremely important to the markets. But it is no longer

STOCK MARKETS

-1.5 -1.9

Der's change Change(%) 1996/97 Eigh 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

4729 40

-23 7085.16 5032.94 1.93 -1.6 22668.80 17303.65 0.891

2194 30 1816 60 3.60

2374.20 1954.06 2.88 2163.94 1791.95 3.54

13868.24 10204.87 3.25† 3460.64 2253.36 1.44†

story. Rumours of delays and clear that the criteria will be

enough to distinguish between

- raises the chance of the Ger-

man public rejecting the entire

project, as well as making EMU

a more risky economic project.

Coney Market Rates

Gennany 3.28

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Spanish inflation this week

INTEREST RATES

Board Yields

Median Back (%)

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Martin Group (a) Group's Falls

113.5 9.5 9.1 Yorkshire TT

232 10.5 4.7 De La Ru

Germany's preferences.

Stephen King of HSBC James Capel said: "The chance of Germany making the Maas-tricht deficit criterion has fallen." German unemployment figures last month increased ears that it would not be able to bring borrowing down, and might itself fail the Muastrichi deficit test of 3 per cent. Should that happen, and should Spanish and Italian borrowing come in at a similar level, it will be politically much harder to keep Spain and Italy out. However. letting them in - especially if they all fail the Maastricht tests was much lower than expected. leading Bruce Kasman to conclude: "We think Spain will be in and Italy will be out."

But while confidence in Spanish entry has increased, analysts are more dubious about Italy. Italian bond and currency markets have been particularly jittery as a result.
Philip Chitty of ABN Amro

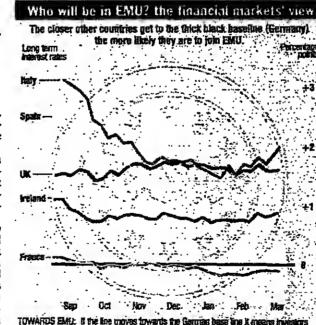
said: "We expect that it will still be possible to draw a distinct line between the core European countries on the one hand and the Mediterranean countries like Italy and Spain on the other. We are far from convinced that Spanish and Italian convergence is sustainable."

Within the last two weeks. new data on the German economy suggest the economy is picking up after all, putting the Maastricht limit within reach

after all. Graham Bishop of Salomon Brothers said: "If Germany can't get its government spending down it will look as though it lacks the political will. And that could trigger a political cri-sis across Europe. The politi-cal statements and the economic statistics of the next few months could have a huge impact on the direction in which Europe heads.

7,44 8,25

1152.5 117.5 9.2



TOWARDS EARL If the line moves towards the Gentrial base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in ten year's time.

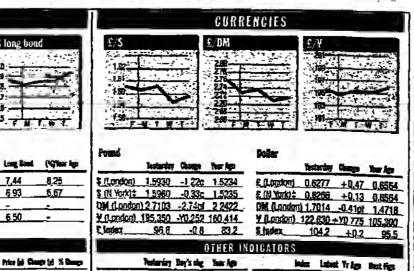
AWAY FROM EMU: However, it they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher initiation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the Mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line WE move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Probability EMU starts on time: Probability EVIJ is delayed:

Probability BAU never happens. ent asked analysts from:

Wilder Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Auro, JP Morgan, Beutsche Margen Brentet Saloman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel what probability they placed on EMU starting on time."



 Oil Brent S
 19.89
 +0.26
 18.92
 RPI
 154.4
 - 145.0

 Gold S
 352.55
 -0.4
 396.75
 GDP
 169.7+2.60c
 107.0

 Gold C
 220.72
 -0.84
 260.44
 88se Rates
 - 6.00pc
 6.75

- 145.0 13 Mar

Disgraced: Masashi Suzuki, the Nomura chairman (left), and the resigning president Hideo Sakimaki Nomura head bows out with public apology

Richard Lloyd Party Tokyo

The president of Nomura Securities resigned yesterday, a week after admitting that his company made illegal payments to the family of a gangster and amid rumours of similar misconduct at other Japanese brokerages.

Hideo Sakamaki announced his resignation to "take responsibility" for the scandal, although he has denied any personal involvement and will remain attached to Nomura as an "adviser".

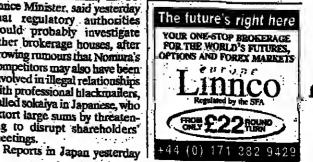
He said: "As the head of a company which is responsible for what happens in markets, I thought it important to resign from corporate management. I am truly sorry," he said, and then placed his hands on a table and bowed deeply.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the Finance Minister, said yesterday that regulatory authorities would probably investigate other brokerage houses, after growing rumours that Nomura's competitors may also have been involved in illegal relationships with professional blackmailers, called sokaiya in Japanese, who extort large sums by threatening to disrupt shareholders'

suggested that the sokaiva-related company which was ille-gally paid by Nomura, also had accounts at Japan's other big three brokerages, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi Securities. "It's hard to believe the authorities will ignore such reports," said Mr Mitsuzuka. "It's common sense for them to conduct an appropriate investigation."

Mr Sakamaki's post was taken over by Nomura's chairman, Masashi Suzuki, who promised to "rebuild the Nomura group and hand it to the next generation. By recreating healthy operating systems, Nomura will focus on recovering trust from all market investors and stockholders."

But things are likely to get worse for Nomura before they get better, and over the last week the firm has attracted harsh wide-spread criticism.



17900.48 -282.79

3349 81 -65.59

12917 09 -202.04

FTSE SmallCap 2374.09 -0.11

Statistics as of 14 March

المكذا من الأصل



JEREMY WARNER

The very high pay of top earners is not the main problem here: the more worrying phenomenon is the polarisation of pay between the well paid and the low paid. between the skilled

and the unskilled

Greed is the price we pay for free market economy

his was a week when executive pay was , part. Certainly there are forces on the BT , to defuse the row by giving away large , their beneficiaries beyond the dreams of I once more in the headlines, so it was fortuitous that I was able to lunch with Sir Ronald Hampel, who combines his role as chairman of ICI with the poison chalice of heading up the successor committee to Cadbury and Greenbury on corporate gov-

ernance and executive remuneration.
His predecessor, Sir Richard Greenbury, left the post a deeply disillusioned man, believing that any attempt to enhance understanding and disclosure of executive pay was doomed to failure. Sir Ronald is a realist and shares some of those sentiments; he is not optimistic that anything he does will improve either media understanding of boardroom pay or sensitivity among industrialists to pub-lic opinion on these matters. But he believes strongly there is still a task to be done and someone's got to do it. So is he on a hiding to nothing, or can he still make a worthwhile contribution to the debate?

There were two stories in the press this week which highlight the nature of the problem. The first was one that appeared on these pages suggesting that Sir lain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield, chairman and chief executive respectively of British Telecom, were in line for bonuses of £500,000 apiece after an "outstanding" year in the company's affairs. This was one of those stories which, though largely right at the time h was written, later turned out to be wrong, at least in

board, and on its remuneration committee. that believe the two knighted industrialists should be paid bonuses of this size and but for pre-emptive action by Sir Iain, he might have been offered one.

Documents sent to BT shareholders yesterday in connection with the merger with MCI of the US note that the remuneration committee has agreed to consider paying a "discretionary" bonus of unspecified quantity. Under the old system this could have been anything up to 50 per cent of salary, or around £250,000. However, there were moves to lift this ceiling so as to allow the payment of half a million pounds.

Not any longer, for in a letter to the Independent, Sir Iain has said that even if offered a bonus of this size, he would not accept it. I'm not sure I would have done this had I been in Sir Iain's shoes and it is a measure of how sensitive be is to these issues that he has. Sir Iain is that rare commodity, an outstanding industrialist who doesn't appear to be monvated by money, or if he is, he certainly hides it well. After an initial run-in over pay in his first year as chairman of BT. Sir Jain has handled the issue of "fat cat" pay with skill and not a little personal sacrifice. His remuneration has always been reasonable but never excessive for someone of his position.

When the size of the bonus has looked like changing that perception, he has managed chunks of it to charity. His letter to the Inde- | warioe. As BT moves from being just another ponderu is typical of the approach. By adeptly managing to sidestep the privatised utility "fat cat" row, he has done both his company and his shareholders a great service. Unlike British Gas, the company is still intact and going from strength to strength. The politi-

cians and regulators have been deprived of the ammunition needed to meddle and shareholders can boast a company of truly world-class status. Who knows? They might even avoid Labour's windfall profits tax. Sir lain almost deserves a bonus for it.

ronically it will be successors who reap the Lbenefits, for the documents filed in connection with the MCt takeover reveal that the policy of restraint is changing. Sir Peter Bonfield will get up to 125,137 free shares in respect of last year under a long-term incentive plan. Admittedly he won't be able to draw on those shares for five years, but provided he stays around, he's banked the equivalent of £500,000 at today's share price. Robert Brace, the finance director, stands to get even more, and this is on top of basic salary and the annual bonus.

what MCI directors and senior executives will get under the terms of the merger with BT cxecutive salaries is a global phenomenon. With the MCI people, BT has been forced. Those who attempt to buck the trend will this way, if I had the answer to that, then I to agree American-style incentives, cariching a simply find they lose their best people to I too would be an extremely wealthy man.

privatised utility to the status of leading global communications company, the American remuneration packages will migrate, rather in the way they did when Beecham merged with SmithKline of the US.

The second story concerns British Petroleum, where a long-term performance plan similar to that put in place for Sir Peter Bonfield has been extended to more than 300 senior executives in the group. In total some £32m of free shares are being paid out under a scheme originally set up in 1990. As a consequence, John Browne, the chief executive, sees his pay for last year rise from £635,000 to £2.47m, while the pay of Sir David Simon, the chairman, rises from £121,000 to

£1.12m. In both cases the hike is caused by the free shares. The interesting thing about BP's pay bonanza is that it is somehow made to seem justifiable, not just because an astonishing turnround in BP's performance has been achieved in the past five years, but also because it has been spread among so many people. This is a clever trick, from which others will no doubt learn.

In the end, however, the issue of whether This, however, is nothing compared with | these very high rates of pay are deserved is a largely irrelevant one. The hidding up of

those who don't. Nor can the problem he properly addressed through taxation; high top rates of tax would almost certainly stifle entrepreneurial innovation and drive the best people offshore.

The worst mistake, then, that Sir Ronald could make in thinking about how he is going to follow Greenbury is to believe there is anything that can actually be done about rapidly inflating executive pay. Greed is like the sun and the rain: it is part of the human condition and part of the price we pay for a free market economy, in any case, the very high pay of top earners is not the main problem here; the more worrying phenomenon is the polarisation of pay between the well paid and the low paid, between the skilled and the unskilled. In an increasingly global. free trade economy, that too is something for which there are no obvious remedies.

So it looks as if Sir Ronald is going to have to content himself with merely enhancing disclosure and transparency in executive pay. Whatever he does, executives are going to find ways of continuing to pay themselves more and more. The best he can hope for is to improve disclosure to a level that adequately exposes those who obviously don't deserve it. As for how he persuades the pub-lie that it is entirely reasonable for executives to be hidding up their market worth in

Profits of £290.2m cap 'excellent' year for United

City Editor

United News & Media capped a hectic year in which it merged with Lord Hollick's MAI by an-nouncing better-than-expected underlying profits despite dis-appointing figures from newspapers, magazines and MAI's original money-broking business. Lord Hollick, the Labour peer who has effectively sidelined United's chairman, Lord Stevens, since the two companies' marriage last February, described the combined group's

first year as "excellent". Profits of £290.2m were comfortably ahead of expectations. driven by strong performances . from United's television interests, where it owns the Anglia exceptional charges that inand Meridian franchises, and holds significant stakes in HTV structuring following the and Yorkshire-Tyne: Bes, and merger of United with MAI. husiness services, its exhibi- The charge also took in £32m

A 15 per cent rise in earnings per share to 40p (34.8p) helped the shares, up 30p to 770.5p, close at a record high since the merger. Forecasts of profits for the current year were pushed higher yesterday to a range hetween £310m and £335m.

Lord-Hollick played down suggestions from the rivals it outbid last year for exhibitions group Blenheim that it had had a good portfolio of exhibitions and better-than-expected management. United won control of Blenbeim by fighting off interest from Reed and Emap.

Reported pre-tax profits were dented by more than £200m of cluded £62.4m to cover retions to market research arm. of reorganisation costs at the tion's prospects. One has put a

struggling Express newspaper ti-tles, where the Sunday and daily titles were merged into a seven-day operation, £18.1m of integration costs at Blenheim and a £62.5m charge to cover the pre-launch costs of Channel 5, the new terrestrial channel which launches at the end of this month,

The effect of the exceptional charges was offset by a overpaid for the company. He said he was "delighted" by the £149.6m profit on the disposal of businesses worth more than £389m acquisition, which he said £300m, including legal pub-£300m, including legal publisher Tolley, sold to Reed, and the South Wales Argus group of local newspapers. United owns 29 per cent of

Channel 5, giving It the largest single holding in the station. The provision in its accounts implies a total pre-launch cost for the channel of more than £200m. Despite the high costs of launching the channel, analysts

present value of £330m on Channel 5, about a tenth of United's £3.6bn market value, and expects it to make annual profits of £185m by the end of its 10year renewable licence period.

In national newspapers, which includes the Star as well as the Express, Lord Hollick said he was confident the group's relative decline compared with arch mid-market rival the Daily Mail had stabilised. He said a "good chunk" of an estimated £15m saving from a printing restructuring would be reinvest-ed in promoting the Express.

According to Lord Hollick, United remains an "interested observer" in the unfolding stand-off between Granada's chairman, Gerry Robinson, and his opposite number at York-shire-Tyne Ress, Ward Thomas, regarding the price at which the widely expected takeover of Yorkshire by Granada should



Delighted: Lord Hollick (left) and United's chief executive, David Arculus

Inflation 'nirvana' steadies Wall Street Lockheed heads

remained positive about the sta-

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Shares on Wall Street partly reversed Thursday's dive after new figures showed the Amer-

start helped London's FTSE- ternational economist at Dres-100 index end nearly 27 points, dner Kleinwort Benson. higher at 4,424.3. . With investors using every reported yesterday that indus-

fresh set of statistics to try to trial output bad climbed 0.5 per predict whether Alan cent last month after a 0.1 per Greenspan, the Fed chairman. cent decline in January. The cawill: decide to raise interest rates later this month, further

ican economy delivering strong growth and falling inflation.

By mid-morning the Dow fear. They are looking out for Jones index was nearly 60 points the next possible piece of bad news, warned Ian Harwood, in-

The Federal Reserve

pacity utilisation rate in indus-

try edge up to 83.3 per cent. ups and downs in share and Separate figures showed that prices charged by manufactur-ers at the factory gale never-theless fell by 0.4 per cent last month, taking their annual inflation rate down from 2.5 per cent to 2.2 per cent. Even though much of the drop was due to falling food and energy prices, the core rate of producer

This happy combination - described as "nirvana" by one an-

price inflation declined to 0.5

alysi - followed news on Thursday of a surge in retail spending in the first two months of the year, and figures last week showing a leap of 339,000 in employment in February.

The pessimists who expect Mr Greenspan to opt for a quarterpoint rise in borrowing costs af-ter the Fed's 25 March meeting focus on the strength of the

economy combined with the Fed chairman's recent warning that he will take pre-emptive ac tion against future inflation if

necessary. There was some evidence in yesterday's figures of higher prices in the pipeline. On the other hand the optimists point to the absence of any signs of inflation on the immediate horizon. This means February's consumer price figures next week, will be the next focus for the financial markets' angst.

But it denied rumours Mr How-

ell had fallen out with his chief

executive, John Edmonds, over

a deal with the freight Irain op-erator English, Welsh and Scot-

tish Railway over access charges

there was no row. It was just one

of those things that did not work

out," a source said. Mr Howell was paid £150,000

and was on a two-year contract.

"There was no big issue and

for new freight business.

bid for air traffic control centre

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Lockheed Martin, the giant US defence contractor, heads a consortium that became the preferred hidder to build the £230m Scottish air traffic control centre, it was announced yesterday. Responsible for controlling all air traffic travelling over Scotland and the north of England, the new centre should come into service in 2002 and will replace the existing one at

The project, being funded under the private finance initiative, will, the consortium claims, net the private firms £600m over 25 vears. The other main member in the Sky Solutions consortium is the Bovis building company.

The new Scotlish centre will increase capacity, enhance efficiency and maintain the highest standards of safety," said Derek McLauchlan, chief executive of National Air Traffic Services, which let the con-

Aviation Authority, the Govemment's air regulator. "Over the next 10 years, air traffic is forecast to increase by 30 per cent and up to 50 per cent by the year 2015." Mr McLauchlan said.

Sir George Young, Secre-tary of State for Transport, will have to approve the deal. It may, however, never he signed. NATS, the arm of the CAA which serves aircraft in Britain across the Atlantic and half-way across the Channel, was forced to sign the PFI deal to get to

However, if NATS is sold to the private sector, it has an option to pull out of the contract and build the Prestwick centre itself. It is increasingly likely that NATS will be sold - as the £600m it would hring in is urgently required by the Treasury. The Conservatives have declared their intention to priva-fise the service and Labour has said it cannot be ruled out.

tasiders point out that the cost of using the PFI will mean He would have been entitled to bonuses under Railtrack's incentive scheme had be stayed.

The centre is urgently need-that the centre will mean that the centre will mean that the cost is nearly 200 per cent development plans and ramp it to hell and hack."

Shield on a dipper over trial results

Magnus Grimond

Shares in Shield Diagnostics, a small Dundee-based biotechnology company, ended a heartstopping 600 per cent climb over the last two months with a hig dipper ride yesterday.

Soaring to a new all-time high of 919p in the morning, up 114p from Thursday's close, they then hurtled back down to 507.5p on news that US trials of a new test for heart attacks had hit the buffers.

But the bulls who have behind the shares' amazing rise from 130p since the end of January recovered their nerve and late buying left the shares down just 137.5p on the day at 667.5p.

With around 7 per cent of the company's share capital traded vesterday, the Stock Exchange was understood to be investigating the "unusual" move-Shield's finance director, said the Exchange had "made due inquiry" after several one-day price changes of more than 10 per cent since the heginning of

February. The crash in the shares came after Shield announced that key trials in Houston, Texas. hased on 700 patients who had been involved in a long-running government programme had been nullified by the mishandling of some samples dating

back to 1986. The trial, alongside another in London's St Bartholomew's Hospital, is testing whether Shield's Activated Factor Twelve accurately predicts heart attacks.

The recent soaring share price has been fuelled by a positive report on the trials issued by the company earlier this year. But Mr Evans said precipitate - "gunge" - had heen discovered in the samples. making them statistically invalid as a hasis for the trial.

The company said it would be going back to those in charge of the trial to see if later data could be substituted, but he said Shield would go ahead with a briefing to investors on 24 March.

Analysis have suggested the market for the product could match the 500m cholesterol test kits sold world-wide every year, but others are highly sceptical. One said: "I think its a classic stock market ramp. A small hiotech company with great development plans and you

 British Airways yesterday announced plans for expansion at Gatwick involving 700 new cabin crew jobs and the transfer of its Latin American routes to Gatwick from Heathrow. The expansion means that by April BA will fly to more destinations from Flatwick than Heathrow. BA employs 7,000 staff at Gatwick. The cutes being shifted to Gatwick are those to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela.

 Tobacco shares were hit after a US court ruling increased the likelihood that the first of billions of dollars of claims to recomp the public cost of smoking-related diseases will come to trial in June. BAT Industries, whose Brown & Williamson subsidiary is one of the defendants in the case, saw its shares slide 31p before recovering to end 14.5p down at 540p. Imperial Tobacco was off 5.5p early on, but finished just 0.5p off at 438p. The falls came after the Mississippi Supreme Court threw out an attempt by Governor Kirk Fordice and the industry to derail a \$940m (£588m) claim for the costs of tobacco-related diseases to the public Medicaid medical insurance scheme. The decision means the state attorney-general, Mike "Flashbulb" Moore, can now test the claim in a state court in June.

· Wickes, the troubled DIY group, yesterday drew a line under last year's problems when it announced reduced losses and the departure of two non-executive directors. Reporting losses of £55.7m, compared to the previous year's £279m, Wickes said 66year-old Sanford Sigaloff, a close associate of Henry Sweetbaum, the former chairman, was stepping down. Also departing is Robert Burrow, a non-executive director. The departures mean Michael von Brentano, who replaced Mr Sweetbaum as chairman and oversaw the investigation into the profits overstatement, is the sole survivor of the old Wickes board.

 Transport Secretary George Young said Associated British Ports had been made the preferred bidder for Ipswich Port. The £24.4m sale is expected to be completed shortly. After payment of the 50 per cent sale levy to the Government, privatisation costs and retention of the balance the port would be valued at £12m, ABP said.

 Edinburgh Fund Managers has entered into a conditional agreement to buy back 2.645 million of its own shares at 565p each from British Investment Trust. BIT has entered into a conditional placing agreement with HSBC James Capel and Panmure Gordon to sell 7.53 million shares in Edinburgh Fund Managers at

• St James Beach Hotels is in discussions with Barbados Shipping & Trading which could lead to the acquisition of a majoriby shareholding in Almond Resorts, a listed company in Barbados which owns Almond Beach Village and Almond Beach Club.

 Babcock International said its chief executive, Nick Salmon, had accepted the post of managing director of the power gen-eration division at GEC Alsthom. Mr Salmon will leave at the end of May and John Parker will temporarily assume his role.

Railtrack director quits with £250,000 pay-off after one year

A senior Railtrack director yesterday quit the company unexpectedly with a pay-off which is expected to be in the region of £250,000.

The company said Michael Howell, who had been in the post of commercial director for a year, had resigned. The Railtrack chairman, Sir Bob Horton, said his departure was in both parties' interests

Mr Howell, 49, joined Railtrack after a career in the private sector which included long spells in the US. His job was to

develop the company's rela- style did not fit easily with the tionships with train operating constraints it operated under. companies and freight companies. But his entrepreneurial style is not thought to have been suited to Railtrack, which opcrates in a heavily regulated environment where its income and charges are fixed.

Before joining Railtrack, Mr Howell worked for General **Electric and Cummins Engines** in the US, returning four years ago to take up a post with Ar-lington, the capital fund managers, before being recruited to

Railtrack said his business

BZW censured over Northern bid affair

BZW, the investment bank, was yesterday censured by the Takeover Panel for failing to disclose the existence of a £250,000 performance fee during its defence of Northern Electric against the hostile hid

from CalEnergy last year. The Panel said it accepted that BZW had not deliberately concealed the fee hut said nevertheless that it should have disclosed it.

The existence of the fee came to light in the dying days of the bid, shortly after BZW and Schroders went into the market and bought a 2.6 per cent stake in Northern in an attempt to thwart the £7g2m takeover. CalEnergy's advisers imme-

diately complained to the Pan-el, which took the unusual step of extending the hid, thus allowing Calenergy to receive enough acceptances from

sharebolders. Had the bid closed normally at 60 days then Northern would have escaped takeover by a whisker, with the aid of the shares bought by its advisers. The Panel executive said it

believed there had been "no de-

liberate concealment" of the fee

but criticised BZW for "failing

to disclose all relevant facts". In the event the fee was never paid. The episode provoked a heated debate about whether advisers should be allowed to buy stakes in companies they are defending - a practice which is ontlawed in the US.

The Index-Tracking PEP



WEEKS left this tax year to buy the lowest cost **Index-Tracking PEP.**

The closing date is 5th April 1997

0500 11 66 22



both rapid and assume values for an electric separation of the stress of the contract of the separation of the separatio

market report/shares

FTSE 100 4424.3 +26.6 **FTSE 250** 4707.8 **FTSE 350** ~2184.4 SEAQ VOLUME 917.1m shares, 56,490 bargains Share spotlight Lasmo

Data Bank

Pakistani strike sends Lasmo shares gushing ahead

Lasmo, the oil group which dis-tinguished itself by fighting US and Canadian oil groups off the hostile advances of Enterprise Oil, gushed 17.5p to 258.5p at one time as a leading securities house appeared intent on buying every share in

Stories flowed that Lasmo was set to collect another takeover bid; there was also intense speculatinn about a strike in Pakistan.

The price ended at 256.5p with SEAQ putting volume at 5.2 million shares. ABN Amro Hoare Govett appeared to be

the main buyer. The suspicion Lasmo is a takeover target has been evident for months. Few expect Enterprise, after the bloody nose it received last time, tn venture farth with a new affer; it is widely accepted the revitalised group will swoop in an-

But there is a strong feeling been discovered at Lasmn's But the fall was whittled Stagecoach, the buses and Lasmn could be in the sights Bhit-2 well, nut far from away and when New York trains group, was shunted 24p

US and Canadian oil groups have displayed a tendency tn flex their corporate muscles and there is no doubt Lasmo would be a significant capture for a string of groups. The possibility Lasmo, per-

haps glancing anxiously over its corporate shaulder, could emerge as the attacker also occupies stock market minds. Althnugh Enterprise, as it would, has played down this week's talk it is about to roll out a bid a number of its suggest-

ed targets have shown re-markable resilience. British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate gained 26.5p tn 1,451.5p and Cairn Energy, fig-ures next week, rose 6.5p to 583p with some pondering a

Lasmn strike. The Pakistan hit was said to be a massive gas find. A vast gas reservoir was said to have been discovered at Lasmn's

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Karachi. Drilling has been completed and Lasmo is busy evaluating the findings. It hopes to be able to make a

judgement in the oear future. Enterprise continued its beady run, gaining a further 7.5p to 659.5p, and Dana Petroleum, an its strengthening ties with the farmer Soviet Union, put on a further 1.5p to

The rest of the market spent the session under the shadow nf New Ynrk. Thursday's 160.48-point slump by the Dow Junes Average sent Footsie down 46.7 points in early trad-

But the fall was whittled

stock market reporter of the year

dence Footsie took fresh heart, ending up 26.6 paints at Fears of higher interest

rates, possibly next week, were behind Thursday's US turmnil it is generally accepted that transatiantic rates will be lifted although any increase could be some weeks away. BG, once British Gas, was

busily traded with some even sniffing takeover action. The price gained 2p to 172p. Cen-trice, British Gas's former distribution arm, also enjoyed an active session, ending little

changed at 60.5p.

lower to 732.5p as its chaotic South West Trains operation suffered humiliating treatment from the railway's regulator.

Shield Diagnostic was another under pressure on disappointment that the muchvannted Houston set of trails into its heart disease detection system may be unproductive because of spoilt samples. The company's treatment has already enjoyed successful tests in this country. Shield is press-

tation later this mouth. The shares in frantic late trading crashed from a 919p peak to 507.5p, before rallying to 667.5p, off 137.5p. But some drugs were on a high. Cantab Pharmaceuticals jumped 127.5p to 1,020p ahead of results due next week and Bio-

ing ahead with a City presen-

compatibles International bounced 62.5p to 1,237.5p. Ransomes, the lawnmower Yorkshire Tyne Tees Televi-sion steadied at 1,167.5p after Granada's sudden display of indifference; Granada shaded

2.5p to 954p. United News & Media rose 30p to 770.5p on its results. as Unilever bid hopes resur-

General Electric Co flicked 11.5p higher to 394.5p on its ex-pected £7bn submarine order. BAT Industries drooped 14.5p to 540p on the latest twist in the US litigation serial.

Insurance brokers had one of their more fascinating sessions with the sector dominated once with the sector dominated once again by takeover talk. The latest US broking merger has reawakened thoughts that it cannot be long before Willis. Corroon, up 3.5p to 160.5p, **Taking Stock**

Tairbriar, the building group where Bank of Scot-land sits on 47.3 per cent of the capital as a legacy of past disasters, climbed op to 34.5p, making an 11.5p gain this week. It returned to the J Sainsbury gained 11.5p to
327.5p on suggestions of a
sales recovery and Reckitt &
Colman added 40.5p to 327.5p

L Lullman hid house seems undertaking are the main ur. It is rumoured that Fairbriar has a big development in the pipeline, proba-

> Card Clear, the credit card protection group, edged forward 0.5p to 43.5p as Crédit Lyonnais Laing said boy, sug-gesting an initial target of 50p. It sees CC producing £2.2m this year and £3.3m

bly with Rank.

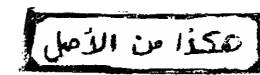
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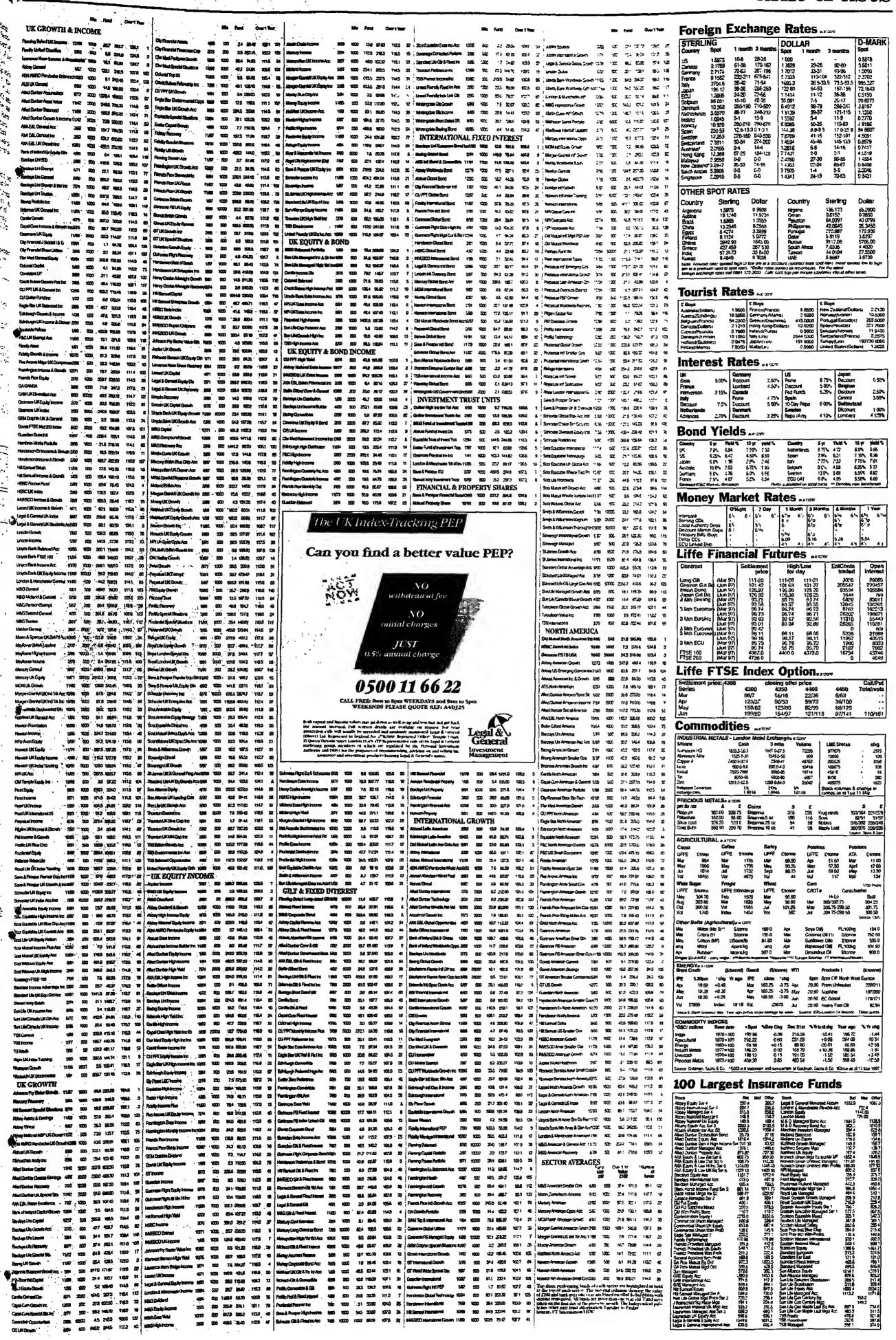
For full written designs of our services write so Hirst Direct. Prespost, Lineas LSSS 2

group, gave up 18p to 32p fol-lowing a profit warning. merges with its nld rival Sedgwick, 2.5p higher at 129p. The Independent Index Market leaders: Top 20 volumes Pyl & Bon Alice 1360000 NeiAlest Bank 1329000 Brillet Sheet 1200000.

المكذا من الأصل



unit trusts



TEST CRICKET: Difficult day for home batsmen as New Zealand and South Africa are bowled out cheaply and West Indies toil

Gillespie repays captain's gamble

NEIL MANTHORP

reports from Port Elizabeth South Africa 209 Australia 10-1

Jason Gillespie claimed his first five-wicket haul in only his fourth Test for Australia as South Africa were bundled out for 209 on the first day of the second Test here yesterday.

The performance vindicated the decision of the captain. Mark Taylor, to put the hosts in on a damp, well-grassed pitch and by the close the Australians, already one up in the three-Test series, had reached 10 for 1 in reply, Matthew Hayden being dismissed for a duck as Daryll Cullman pulled off a smart slip

Sri Lanka in control

B A Young run out ... M J Home b Zoysa...

O Vetion b Muraldharan...... S 8 Doull c A De Silve b Vans

Bidras (b11 lb9 nb10) fotal (90,4 overs)

New Zealand 222 v Sri Lanka

The young fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa and the spinner Muttiah Muralitharan took three wickets each as Sri Lanka dismissed New Zealand for 222 on the first day of the second Test in Hamil-

Sri Lanka, needing a win to square the two-match series. tied down the home batsmen with a mixture of spin and swing. Only the opener Blair Pocock mastered the bowling with his best Test score, 85, patiently compiled over 286 minutes at the crease.

The tourists had an early

Gillespie shared four wickets when he was bowled off an inwith fellow pace man Glenn McGrath in the morning session, but then took the first three and Herschelle Gibbs launched wickets after lunch to finish the a mini-revival either side of day with 5 for 54 from 23 hostile and accurate overs. Gary Kirsten was the first to

go when he could only fend a Gillespie lifter into the hands of Hayden at short leg for a duck in the sixth over. Another Gillespie lifter saw Jacques Kallis lob a simple catch to Greg Blewett at backward short leg, also for a duck. The opener Adam Bacher survived an impassioned appeal for a catch at the wicket before he had scored but then fell to Mc-Grath for 11, caught in the gul-ly by Matthew Elliott.

Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, then recorded

catch to the bowler. hreakthrough when Bryan First day; Australia won toss SOUTH AFRICA - First innings
G Kirsten c Hayden b Gilespie ...
A M Bacher c Elbott b McGrath .
J H Kalts c Blewett b Gifespie ...
O J Culman c Warne b Gilespie ...
W J Cronje b McGrath Young, fresh from an unbeaten 267 in New Zealand's first Test win by an innings and 36 runs, was run out for just four. Donald c and b Warne.

P R Adems not out Extras (68 lb8 w1)... 209 Felix 1-13 2-17 3-21 4-22 5-70 6-95 7-95 8-180 9-204.
80viling: McGrath 22-7-66-2; Gillespie 23-10-54-5 twil: Warne 23-45-62-3; Biewett 4-2-3-0; Bevan 2-0-8-0.

side edge by McGrath to leave

his team on 22 for 4. Cullinan

lunch before Gillespie frund a

thick edge and Shanc Warne took the catch in the gully to re-

move Cullinan for 34. Gillespie

then removed Gibbs' aff stump

for 31 and had Pollock lbw next

Richardson offered some re-

sistance with an eighth-wicket

partnership of 85, hut Warne

took the last three wickets in quick succession to finish with 3 for 62.

Richardson, three runs short

of his half-century, skied an off-drive to a tumbling McGrath and then McMillan pulled

Warne to Steve Waugh at deep

square-leg for 55. The innings

closed shortly after when Allan

Donald prodded a simple return

Brian McMillan and Dave

delivery - the fourth duck.

Faint 1-1 To bath M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G 9 Blewert, M G Bevan, 11 A Hesty, S K Warne, J N Ckle-spe, G 0 McGrath. Bowling: Donald 5-2-3-0, Politock 4-2-2-1, Adams 2-0-2-0, McMillan 2-0-2-0.



Australia's Jason Gillespie celebrates dismissing South Africa's No 3, Jacques Kallis, for nought in the second Test in Port Elizabeth yesterday

Lara falls as **India** make early inroads

TONY COZIER

reports from Port of Spain West indles 61-3

The West Indies were made to struggle for runs after winning the toss on the opening day of the second Test against India in Trinidad yesterday. By the time rain temporarily halted play 20 minutes after lunch they had limped uncertainly to 73 for 3.

Their problems were caused primarily by the quick and vared leg spin of Anil Kumble, who removed the openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell in each of his first two overs. But the real prize was snared by the left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi five minutes before lunch when Brian Lara was off balance driving into the off side and edged a low catch to Mohammad Azharuddin's right at slip.

The decision of the captain, Courtney Walsh, to bat came as a surprise since the West Indies chose once more to use four fast bowlers in spite of the injuries that kept Ian Bishop out of contention and forced the introduction of his fellow Trinidadian, the 22-year-old Mervyn Dillon, who has had only five first-class matches. Only Viv Richards and Richie Richardson, twice, have taken similar courses on winning the toss at the Queen's Park Oval over the past 20 years.

Williams and Campbell had little difficulty seeing off the faster bowlers but Kumble took only six halls to strike. Pushing forward, Williams was caught off pad

and bat at silly point for 18. In his next over Campbell, playing across a leg break, was not to the pitch of the ball and skewed L. lobbed catch to extra cover.

Lara entered to the customary royal reception from his fellow Trinidadians, of whom there were around 10,000 in the ground. But he was clearly not himself. Two days earlier he had damaged his silver grey Mer-cedes coupé and, while he said he was not shaken by the incident, he was obviously uncertain against the bowling.

Before he had scored, he drove his sixth ball low to midnff from Kumble and a more alert fielder than the tall fast bowler Abey Kuruvilla would have made the catch. The Indians could not be too harsh on their errant fielder for Ku ruvilla, as he had done in the first Test in Kingston, was a model of accuracy and helped Kumhle maintain the pressure. conceding only five runs from his first spell of nine overs.

In any case his mistake was not costly, Lara's downfall immediately silencing the calypso music that throbbed around the stands between each over. First day, West Indies won toss

Hooper not out ...

HIDER V V S Laman, N S Sohu, R S Dravd.
*S R Tendulkar, S Genguly, M Azharuddin, 1N
R Monga, A Kumble, S Joshi, A Kumvilla, 3
K V Prased.

Football

3.0 unless stated

4M WADCHALL CONFERENCE: Altrinchem

V Bath City, Bromsgrove v Rushden & Demonds; Haifax v Dover, Rettaring v Testord;
Macclesfeld v Southport: Morecambe v
Famborough; Northwich v Cateshead; Skrugh

V Hayes; Stevenage v Hodnessord; Welling v
Kordeminister: Wolding v Standondern

ramototogy, volument v seasorating v Hayes; Stevenage v Hodnesford: Welling v Kidderminster; Wolding v Statybridges.

FA CARLSBERG WASE Sermi-finals first leg; Baristead Athletic v Whitby Town; Gusborough Town v North Femby Utd.

ICS LEAKUE Prominer Division: Aylestury v Harrow Borough; Bishop's Stordord v Purillage, Terrisey v Science; Degenham & Redbridge v Carstration; Dulwich v Sz Albans; Grays v Kingstonian; Oxford City v Hendon; Sutton Utd v Emfeld: Yeading v Heybridge; Yeovil v Boreham Wood, First Division: Barism Rowers v Carteys Island; Billeticary Ubdindge; Chestam Utd v Bognor Regis; Hampton v Aldershor; Madenthead Utd v Basingstoke; Marlow v Croydov; Motesey w Wolfingham; Tharne v Tooting & Mitcham; Welton & Hersham v Abogton Town; Whyteleafe v Leyton Pennant; Worthing & Mitcham; Watton & Hersham v Aberglon Town; Whyseleate v Leybin Penham; Worthing y Berthramsted. Second Division: Barking y Metropolitan Police; Bracknell v Collier Row & Romdont; Cheshumt v Wernbley; Dorking v Bedford; Edgware v Wittam; Egham v Legiston; Hemel Hermistead v Horsham; Hungerford v Leatherhead; Ware v Tibury; Whenhole v Windsor & Eton. Third Divisions Audicy v Ding; Clapton v Brahmee; Homotuch y Hertford; Kingsbury Hartor; Lewes v East Thurnock; Noramood v Epsom & Ewelt; Southall v Flackwell Heath; Wingate & Finch-ley v Wealdstone.

Subursit v Fischweit Heart: Virigate & Hinchley v Wealdstane,
UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Acomigon Stanley v Boston Utd: Affeton v Runcom: Bamber Bridge v Mannet; Beshop
Audkand v Waton; Buston v Colwyn Bay, Chorley v Lancaster; Emiley v Wirston's, Finckley v
Guiseley; Knowsiey v Blyth Sparrans; Leek v
Hyde; Spernymoor v Gainsborough; Finckley v
Hyde; Spernymoor v Gainsborough; Finckley v
Hyde; Spernymoor v Bainsborough; Finckley v
Hyde; Spernymoor v Bayton (Name Finckley
Vongleon; Farsley v Netherfield; Gratin v
Workson; Lincoln Utd v Leigh; Matfock v Workingon; Stocksbridge v Fiston; Warmington v
Curson Achton; Whittey Bay v Atherton LR,
OR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Ashford v Halesowen Town; Burton Albon v
Chelmstort; Cambridge City v Salesbury; Crasley v Gloucearc; Gravesend & Northlieet v
Numeaton; Gresley Revers v Baldock; Hastley V. Gloucottert, taravesem o reurumate v. Numeaton: Gresley Rovers v. Baldock; Hast-ings v. Cheltonham; Menthyr Tydfi v. Sidbig-bourne: Newport AFC v. King's Lynn; Sudflury Town v. Dorchester, Worcester v. Atherstone. böurne: Newport AFC v King's ("vin: Sudhury rown v Dorchester: Worester v Aherstone. Mikiland Division: Bedworth v Hinckley rown; Dudley v Rothwelt; Everham v VS Rag. Grantiam v Tarmorth: Noor Green v Cor-by: Raunds v Sobhull Borough; Shepshed Dyramov Diesson; Stouthoring's Bristor Sut-ton Coldfield v Racing Club Wartnet. South-em Division: Bashley v Weymouth; Dardor vider, Fareham v Fister Amletc; Forest Green Rosens v St. Leonards Stamborth: Hawart v Buckingham Town; Margate v Newoort loW; Torbridge v Clevedon; Waterloosile v Cin-derford, Weston super-Mare v Fleet: Witney v Crencester.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First DIVIstore: Beckenham v Committein; Canterbury v Hythe; Cray v Whistable; Crockenhal v Folkestone; Deal v Chattam: Faversham v Turbindge Welst: Furness v Sheppey; Greenwich Borough v Stade Green; Lordswidod v Ramsgate; Thamesmised v Herne Bay.

Pall of wickets: 1-19 2-88 3-96 4-100 5-126 6-172 7-172 8-178 9-203. Bouting: Vaas 12.4-1-32-1: Zoyse 18-3-47-3: 9 de São 15-4-36-0: Darmasena 22-7-39.

gate; Thamesmead v Herne Bay.
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Horsham YMCA v Arundei; Millio Qel.
v Eastbourne Town; Pagham v Hailsham; Peacehoven & Teiscombe v Timee Bridges; Portfield v Burgess Hill; Fingmer v Qalwood; Saltdeen v Southwick; Selsey v Langney; Shoreham v White-bank.

Shoreham v Whitehawk,
UHLSPORT UMPED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town v St Neots; Eyresbury v Bourne; Ford Soorts v Mirriess
Blackstone; Kempston v Cogenhoe; Long,
Buckby v Spakiting; Stamford v Desborough:
Stamford v Desborough:
Stamford v Northampton
Spericer; Statifold v Holbeacht; Wellingborough
v Newport Pagnell; Wootton v Potton.
SCREWFOX DRIBECT LEAGUE Premiler Division: Bridgort v Bristol Manor Farm; Brislington v Barnstaple; Calne v Mengostield;
Chard v Tauviton; Chopperhemi v Bridgiwater;
Emore v Odd Down; Twenton v Paulson; Westbury v Bideford.

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Belper v Arrold; Brigg v Hal-tan; Denaby v Pickening, Hatfield Mari v Glasshoughon Wedfare; Hudonal v Porterfact Collieny; Ossati Abbon v Ashbeld; Seby v Armitrope Wedfare; Sheffeld v Mality MW; Thackley v Ossati Town. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST DI-

vision: Chadderton v Trafford; Cinheroe v Blackpool Rovers; Darwen v Nantwich; Glos-

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v Gosport Borough; Totton v Wimborne; Aerostructures v Bournemouth FC: Brock-enhars v Covers Sports: Crinstaturch v Downton; East Cowes Vics v Bemerton Heath; Petersheld v BAT Sports; Ryde Sports v An-dover; Thatcham v Portsmouth RN. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: INTERLINK EXPINESS MILLION ALL MODELLE Blakenait v Stopenhil; Bridgnorth v Oldbury, Hindyley Athletic v Shifral; Intypersiley Vic-toria v Halesoven Homers; Pelsali Villa v Ro-cester, Personer v Boldmere St Michaele; Rushaid Olympic v Barveli; Sandwell Borough v Chasetown: Willenhall v Strotford. FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedington Terners
v Dunston Federation Brevery: Crook v
Chester le-Street; Durham v Stockton; Morpeth v Consett; Murban v Sealism Red Star;
RTM Newcastle v Tow Law; Shidon v West
Auckland: South Shields v Billingham Synthonia; Whickham v Easington.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry v Rhyl; Caemarfon v Aberystwyth (2,30); Caersws v Holywel; Cemaes Bayv Newtown; Connah's Cuay v Welshpoo; Convy v Ton Parine; Bobw Vale v Cwmbran (12,0); Llensantiffad v Barrgor City (2.01; Porthmadog v Cammerthen. gor City (2.01); Protrinating v Asimistries PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora Rangers v Nam County; Deveronvale v Peterhead; Eigh City v Lossemouth; Fort William v Buckle Thistie; Fraserburgh v Hunt-ly; Ketth v Ctachnacuddin; Rothes v Cove

Hangers, McEWAN'S LAGER NORTH CUP Semi-final replay: Fores Mechanics v Wick Academy. BASS RRSH CUP Quarter-finals; Cithorwife Crusaders; Giernoran v Coagli Util; Lough-gal v Colerane; Omagh v Limavady. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Premier Physiology. For HERS V Dire-LAND Premier Division: Finn Harps v Dun-dalk (7,301; Sligo Rovers v Bray Wanderers

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Arsenal v Crystal Palace. **Rugby Union**

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP lat Parc des Princes, Paris) Weles v England Jat Cardiff Arms Park).

Ist Cardiff Arms Parkl.

COURAGE CLIBS' CHAMPIONSHIP Notional
League Threes: Easter v Morley; Hismogare
v Redruth; Leeds v Lydney; Lordon Weish v
Wassh; Otiey v Lhermool St Heleney; Reading v Hasent: Rossyn Park v Pytice Wharfoddu
v Clitton, Netional League Four North: Aspoint a v Numeator; Hereford v Stoke-on-Berti
Lichfield v Bimmingtam/Solfhulf; Preston
Grasshoppers v kendad; Sandal v Worcester;
Shelfield v Stourbridge; Winnington Park v
Manchester, National League Four South:
Chettonham v Newbuy; Metropolitan Police
v Borking; North Walsham v Pymouth;
Tabard v Askeans; Weston-super-More v
High Wycombe.

INSURANCE CORPORATION BRISH LEAGUE

INSURANCE CORPORATION IRISH LEAGUE Prist Division (2.30): Blacknock College v Shannon; Dungannon v Old Grescent; Gar-yowen v Lanscower; Old Behedere v Col-Constitution; Old Wesley v St Man; S College; Torenure Coll v Instomens; Young Munster v

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE Ballymena, Second Division (2.30); Clon-terf v Monisstown; DLSP v Bective Rangers; Deny v Sunday's Well; Dolphin v Skenles; Gray-stones v NIFC; Malone v Highfield; Wander-CLUB MATCHES: Blackheath v Saracens (1.0); Oxford Univ v Waseda Univ (5,45); Pre-

Hockey

HOCKOBY
HOME QUAD YOUTH TOURNAMENT (Milbon Regness): Under 18: Wates v Ireland (10.0); England v Scotland (2.0). Under 18: Ireland v Woles 12.0); England v Scotland 12.0). NATIONAL LEASUE First Division: Beston v Bromley (1.30); Buehorts v Bournille (2.0); Hull v Trojans (2.0); Indian Gymharra v Browlands (1.30); Loves v Crosty, (1.30); Datord Univ Edgbaston (12.0); Sheffield v Firebrands (2.0): Sheffield v Firebrands (2.0): St Albans v Hardston Magabas (2.0): St v Edgaston (12,0); Sheffield v Firebrands (2,0); St Albans v Harleston Magnies (2,0); Stourport v Wamagton (2,0). NASTRO AZZURRO SOUTH Premier: Old

Ramgania v spinigieus; Soutport v rom-by; Swohel v Neston; Timperley v Cheste. WORDER'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Bal-sam Lecester v Trojans (12.30); Clifton v Stough (12.30); Dorusser v Ipswoh (12.0); Sutton Coldfield v Hightown (11.30). First Divisions Resitton Swittenbeak v Chelms-Sutton Coldfield of Hightown (11.30). First Divisions Bradford Switchenheink of Chefinsford Broadcook; Otton v Cartterbury (2.0); Sunderland Bedans v Bluehartis 112.30); Wintbedon v Bradwell 112.01. Second Divisions Loughborough Students v Ealing 12.30); Old Loughborough Students v Ealing 12.30; Old Loughborough Students v Ealing 12.30; Old Loughborough Vision v St Alberts (1.0); Wolsing v Eymouth 12.0).

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Duhyich v Reading Horsham v 7u/se Hdl; Southamp-ton v City of Portsmouth; Winchmore Hill v Winchester; Worthing v Hampstead & West-

minister.

WOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES
LEAGUE First Divisions Amersham v Bredines; Cny of Oxford v Mardenhead; Milton
Keynes v Reading Nowbury v Farnham
Common; Oxford Univ v Wycombe Wyet
Ranelagh v Sonning; West Witney v Henley;
Woldingham v Slough.

WOMEN'S EAST SUPER LEAGUE Premier: Bedeyheath v Cambridge City; Harleston Mag-ples v Sevengales; Ipswich v Astriord; Welwyn Garden City v Bury St Edmunds.

WOMEN'S WEST Premier: Cheltenha Austell; Exeter v Wimbome Wayfares land v Leominster; Yate v Colwal. WOMEN'S NORTH First Division: Blackburn

Basketball

Buldweiser LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Man-chester Glaris (7.30); Lelcester Rides v Crys-tal Pelace (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Leopards 18.0); Wortfung Bears v Hernel & Wetford Royals (8.0). NATIONAL LEAGUE Men's First Division NAI (DNAI, Leaster Meen & Farsk Division: Bury & Bolton v Nottingham (7,30); Cardiff v Briston (8.0); Coverny v Uverpcol (7,30); Guidford v Stockton (8.0); Solent v Nc1 Sus-sax (8.0); Westwinster v Plymouth (8.0). Women's First Division: Barking & Dagen-ham v Rhondola (8.0); Blankingsam v Nottingham (4.0); Harlesden v Spelthome (7.0); London v Crystal Palace (6.0); Thames Val-

ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE Pley-offs: Group A: Ayr Scot-bish Eagles V Newcastle Cobras (6.30). Group B: Brachnell Bees v Nottingham Pan-tures (6.30); Sheffield Steelers V Bangatole Boon (6.35).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Guildford Flames v Yungston Hawis (6.0); Stough Jets v Solihuli Blaze (6.30); Swindon IceLords v Telford Tigers 15.30). WORTHERN PREMIER Play-offs excond round: File Pyers whritey Warlors 17.151; Paidey Protes v Blockburn Hawle 17.0). Shield Tournements: Murrayfield Royals v Peterbor-ough Protes 17.01.

Speedway SPEEDWAY STAR GUP: Covernry v Swindon 17.30). BADMINTON: Yone: All-England Open Cham-pionships (NIA, Birmingham). RALLYING: Welsh Rally. SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meet (Cardiff). TABLE TENNIS: English Championships

TOMORROW Football

UNBOND LEARLE First Division: Workington v Bradford Perk Avenue (3.0). DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division; St Leonards Stampfull v Waterlooville (3.0), LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-jet Carolity First (3.0).

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRS-LAND Prepuler Division: Bohemisons V Dev-ry City (3.15); Cork City v Shelboume (2.0); University College Dublin v St Petnck's Ath-lette (3.15). Rugby League

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Leads v Oldhom; London v St Helens (6.35); Salford v Castle-London v St Helens (6.35); Wigan v Hollfore; Shelassu V Paris (SLLP) Treport in hor-fore, First Division: Featherstone V Swinton (3.30); Huddersfield v Keignley (3.30); Huil v Widnes (3.15); Wakefield v Whitehaven (3.30); Second Division: Carlsle v York (3.0); Hurslet V Leigh (3.30); Prescot v Doncast-er; Rochdale v Lancashire Lynx.

COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP (3.0): National Lengue Two: Newcastle v Not-tinghem. National Lengue Four South: Cam-berley v Charton Pork; Henley v Berry Hill. watery v uranton Park, Henley v Berry Hill.
WELSH MARRONAL LEASUE First Divisions
Ebbw Vale v Durvant (2:30).
ANGLO-WELSH SECOND DIVISION COM-PETITIONs Group ID: Bonymaen v Rotherham (2:30).

Hockey HOME QUAD YOUTH TOURNAMENT (Milton Keynes): Under 16: Weles v Scotland (9,30): England v Ireland (11.30). Under 18: Scotland v Weles (1.30): England v Ireland NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Surbitors v Old Loughtonians (2.30), First Division: Stour-port v Oxford Hawks (2.30). AEWHA CUP Fifth round: Chaimsford v Can terbury (12,45); Chimson Rambiers v Aldridge AEWHA PLATE Fourth round: Chitem v Ha

AEVENA PLASE FORCE TOWNS CHIEFE TO ASSET TOW (2.0); City of Portsmouth v Camberley (2.0); Decision Remblers's v Reading (1.0); Deffield v Aldershot & Farmson (4.0); Leonin-ster v Vaca & South Gloubester (1.0); Poyte-ton v Springlied (2.0); Seviencels v Vork (2.0); St Ives v Bath (1.30). Resimilar BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bullets

Sharks (6.0); Crystal Polace v Worthing Bee NATIONAL LEAGUE Ments First Division: Mid

SUPERLEAGUE Play-offs: Group A: Cardiff Dowls v Newcastle Cobres (6.30); Manchessar Storm v Ayr Scottish Eagles (8.0). Group B: Beasingstope Bisco v Shreffield Steelers (6.0). PREMIER LEAGUE: Ringston Hawles v Swindom loet.ords (5.45); Solfmat Bisses v Slought Jeet (7.0); 785 ord Tigers v Guidford Flemes (5.30).

(5.30). NORTHERN PREMIER Play-offs second round: Backburn Hawles virte Fiyers (6.0); Whitey Warlors v Poisey Protes (6.30). Shield Tournement: Peterborugh Pirates v Mur-rayfield Royals (5.30). Speedway

Other sports CYCLING: Grand Prix of Essex (Haistand)

TABLE TENNIS: English Championships

UOTES OF CTHE WEEK

l don't know how old I was I don't know how old I was at the start of the game, but I'm 93 now if was a long, long time watching my team keep Windhedon out, it was like 120. Years In Alcatraz Martin. O'Now: Leicester manager after his team's Coca-Gola Cup semi-tion! away grais victory.

What she way grais victory member, is that we could trute easily have good out to none easily have gone out to Colwyn Bay in the first round. Bifain: Flynn, manager of Wredilam, beaten FA Cup quarter finalists.

peried to him. Our minors don't See that far back. Michael Schimacher on Damon Hill's parada lap exit from the

What is going on? Is this the first day back at school or what? Martin Brundle, ITV an-

alyst, to the first lap chaos in Melbourne.

If get furnit highs, it is wearing off aiready. Scotland's footballers writing a World Cup malch would last longer, David Coulthard; Australian Grand

Buying a new or used? Then you need What Car?

Full details

AWARDS 1997

We name Britain's best new cars

New Audi A6

Don't miss it

HEREFORD

HYPERION 2.20 Proud Image 2.55 Scottish Bambi 3.25 Added Dimension 4.00 Chip'N'Run 4.30 Kadari 5.00 Northern Singer 5.30 Noddadante

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Bligh-hand course with 300pd (tim-in.
Course is Not cay on A40 (terrord station 1m, ADMISSION:
Club & 12; Tattiersalls 80; Course Enclosure \$5. CAR PARR: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Still Here (2:20); Menclave (3:25); Kentocky Gold (1.31). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Dr Rocket (2.55) won WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE OF ROCKET (2007) WINT TARRED IN MORE THE TARRED IN MORE THAN THE ACTION OF A POINT-OF ON THE SALES FOR A PROPERTY OF THE SALES AND A POINT-OF THE SALES AND A POINT-O

2.20 MARCH NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 1f

3137 PROUD MAGE (21) (BF) G McCourt S 11 7 J 0s

2.55 NEWENT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

Aformum weight 10st. True hundicap weights: Corpus 9st 8h, Dr Rocket 9st 5th. BETTING: 11-8 Scottlish Bannial, 5-2 Dr Rocket, 4-1 Morthern Optimist, 8-1

3.25 BOSBURY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 1f 6-03111 ADDED DIMENSION (17) (CD) P Winkson 6 11 10. X Abusus (7) 13-16-35 MENELANE (29) 0 Shemood 7 11 6 J Optome 8 274-035 SCHWOZZIE (87) K Britishin 6 10 8 R Meney (3) 17322-0 VA UTU (17) (D) 0 Lipid 9 10 0 Sophile Michael (3) 4-00003 THE BREWER (23) J Loch 5 10 0 R Bellemy

Minmum progratios, true handsop engliss to the Six 13b, the Green Six 4b. BETTING: FORECAST: 5-4 Added Dispersion, 2-1 Monetave, 9-2 School-

4.00 CHARLE KNIPE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,800 added 3m 1f 110yds 49:49-1 HiGHMAY FIVE (10) (CD) S Broke 912 7 Julius E James (7)
10/21-10 Whit A TO 00 (9) C Streeting 13 12 4 Julius L Sweeting (7)
19/1-10 Whit A TO 00 (9) C Streeting 13 12 4 Julius L Sweeting (7)
19/1-10 CHEPYTEIN (302) Ms M Tengar 11 12 0 Juliur P Harrly (7)
045/9-5 GMY RIFFRIM (18) (2) Ms 0 Dyson 11 12 0 Juliur P Harrly (7)
045/9-5 GMY RIFFRIM (18) (2) Ms 0 Dyson 11 12 0 Juliur G Shonkin (7)
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08/1-04-6 KRNGTSHIEF BNY (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile 12 12 0 Juliur BNA (16) (2) 0 Utile

— 11 doctored — BETTENG: 9-4 ChipTetten, 4-1 Testrador, 5-1 Prisco Of Verous, 11-2 What ATO DO. 7-1 First Harvest, 2-1 Highway Five, Penice Lady, 10-1 Tro Rum Mariner, 14-1 Orton House, 20-1 others 4.30 TEME HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added mares 2m 3f 110yds

40003-6 SEVSO (17) (C) R Baker 8 10 0 Altrimum weight: 10sz. True handicap weights: Seiso 9st 12th, Precious is rans Swing Quartet, 9-4 Kederl, 9-2 Josiffon, 9-2 Sevso, 14-1

5.00 MALVERN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m

5.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 3m 2f

BETTING 7-2 Spitfire Bridge, 9-2 Copper Coll, 13-2 Moddents, 6-1 Profeator Progr. 7-1 Crewin, Sammerello, 5-1 Coole Cherry, 10-1 Brown West, 12-1 Manor Bound, Young Teas, 14-1 Lady Of Mine, Lord Miragins, 20-1

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Big Bang 7.30 English Invader 8.00 Nou-fari 8.30 Tinkerbell 9.00 Hannahs Usher 9.30 Loch

STALLS: 7! - outside: rest - inside STALLS: 77 - outside; rest - midde.

IRAW ADVANTAGB: High from 6f to 1 m 4f.

Fibresand, left-hand, oral course.

Course as N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1 m. ADMISSION: Club 516; Tattersella 56 (OAP members of Diamond
Club 54); Viewing Restaurant 526.20 including entrance and meal.

CAR PARE: free.

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: Night Harmony (visored) (8.00). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAIS: Shoutaine (9.00) won

WINNERS IN THE LAST SECTION MALES SUBMEMBER (18.00) SEEN 181 miles by Lingfield on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Dictation (8.00) Seen 181 miles by J J O'Neill from Skelton Wood End, Cumbris; Elly FisertRoot (7.30) Seen 178 miles by G L Moore from Woodingdean, E Sussex; Dr Edgar (7.30) Seen 182 miles by M Dods from Piercebridge, Co. Durham; Hassel (7.30) seen 185 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Wilderman, Doron; Zorba (7.00) & Secret Service (8.00) seen 140 miles by C Thornton from Middleham, North Yorkshine; Cec-N-E (8.30) & Shoutzine (0.00) seen 140 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshine; Random Kindness (8.00) seen 133 miles by R Ingram Epson, Surrey, Hewer Gelf Charg-seen 133 miles by R Ingram Epson, Surrey, Hewer Gelf Chargston from Middleham, North Yorkshire; Random Kindness (8.00) sent 139 miles by E Ingram Epsom, Surrey, Hever Golf Charg-er (8.30) & Hever Golf Ragie (9.30) sent 130 miles by T J

7.00 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,000 akkled 1m 1f 79yds ...K Fallon 3 BETTING: 13-8 Big Bung, 9-4 Zorha, 4-1 Hazel, 8-1 Sounds Lagal, 10-1 Windhorn, 12-1 Crackerbox, 33-1 others

7.30 CHORISTER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 1m 4f

50-0325 DR EDGAR (26) M Dode 5 9 4 2 SOMMERSBY Min N Mackety 6 9 2 Jungin Gellmare (7) 8
3 300-140 FERRI FRUET DATE (25) P Februs 5 9 1 Jungin Gellmare (7) 8
4 D-41341 FERRI FRUET DATE (25) P Februs 5 9 1 Jungin Gellmare (7) 8
5 560-004 CARROLLS MARC (23) (20) C Murray 9 8 8 J. Michaelth (3) 7
6 232000 FERRI FURNIT (25) (7) 8 Synart 4 8 5 S. Whitmorth 4
7 13-635 HOMESTE (25) (20) C Murray 9 8 8 J. Michaelth Daylor (3) 8
8 0-5040-4 PA THE GAMD (16) Lord Huntington 4 6 3 June (Shean 35 V 10 0-0006 FFRCACKOUS (10) P Eachs 4 7 13 J. Brankfill (5) 8 8
EETTING: 11-8 Singlish Investor, 100-30 in The Band, 6-1 Dr Edgar, 8-1 Homestly, Fresh Fruit Daily, 10-1 Sammersby, 12-1 Labile, 14-1 Eily Fleetfoot, 20-1 Carrolle Marc, 33-1 Efficacious

Allen Paulson has played down the possibility of cloning Cigar. And the American Jockev Club stressed that if Cigar were to be cloned any resulting offspring would most likely be

barred from racing.

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Swindon v Coventry (6.0).

Proceedings asked how he felt after the race

8.00 HARTSHORNE MOTOR LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 46yds

8.30 CHESTERS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,400 added 3YO 7f 42621-0 CEE-N-K (LID) M Johnston 8 7 _____ 5-1 COLD STEEL (66) (CD) W Jervis 9 6 365121 ENGHANTING EVE (1/6) (C) (D) C Allen 8 13Mortin Duver (D)

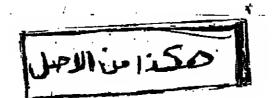
-7 decimed -BETTING: 15-8 Cold Steel, 4-1 Cao-N-X, 5-1 Poline, 6-1 Kompete, En-chanting Eve, 7-1 Teleschell, 14-1 Hever Golf Changer

9.00 WHITE HEAD SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS 348010 LITTLE BINR (10) (CD) P Berns 89 10 ...

12 00000-0 MIRDOWN RAIDER (10) (CD) John A Harris 4 / 10 J O'Relly 1 13 064-546 MARCARETROSE ANNA (10) 8 Baugh 5 7 10 June Wards (7) S - 13 declared -Adminum weight: 7st 10th. True handles weight: Margiaretrane Anna 7st 5th. BETTING: 4-1 Strontolme, 9-2 Both Aristocrat, 5-1 Hob Majersite, 6-1 Dic-terion, 6-1 Locison, 9-1 Little Bur, 10-1 Featherstone Lune, 12-1 Weight Harmony, Amy Loigh, 16-1 Margaretrone Anna, 20-1 others

9.30 TOMS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 1f 79yds 012210- ANGEL FACE (USA) (74) P Examp 4 10 0

13 ACCOUNT BEAUTY BANK TO THE STATE OF THE S or con supe, 8-1 rever me, theorety, 12-1 Serest Supposts, Eth-bast, 12-1 Venice Beach, 14-1 Lock Style, Golden Teach, 20-1 others



sport

O'Shea cautious about aiming Ballistic at Aintree

Racing GREG WOOD

It is a sign of the delicate balance within a racing programme built up over two centuries that change in one small area will quickly be felt elsewhere. Just six years ago, significant alterations were made to the Grand National course at Aintree in order to benefit the safety of the participants, but already one race which previously offered only rare clues to the National has overtaken any number of others to become the most important Liverpool trial of all. It is also quite a significant event in its own right: the Cheltenham

No longer are horses good enough to find the frame in the Gold Cup considered too good to risk at Aintree. As Mr Mulligan passed the post at Cheltenham two days ago, far-sighted punters were focused on horses running on from off the pace, and one in particular caught everyone's eye. Go Ballistic, fourth on Thursday, would not have made

turn if he had been driving a his trainer, said yesterday, "and sports car. With just 9st 8lb in there would be no problem the long handicap for Liverpool, and every chance that the weights will rise sufficiently to like to take a week to think it get him into the handicap proper, his National chance was suddenly obvious to backers and bookies alike, with William Hill so impressed that he was cut to 10-1 second-favourite

in today's Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter. As yet, though, Go Ballistic the Whithread, and as the is just a probable, rather than definite runner at Aintree. The National, we'll have to have a horse has come out of his race good look at it." in super shape," John O'Shea,

behind Lord Gyllene, a runner

with him being ready to run at National time, but I would just over. His only other option is RICHARD EDMONDSON

(Lingfield 4.45) MB: Garrylough (Uttoxeter 3.00)

NAP: Shanagore Warrior

National, we'll have to have a O'Shea's principal concern is



that, at just eight years of age. Go Ballistic might lack the necessary maturity for chasing's most gruelling event. "The trip won't be a problem." O'Shea said. "The idea behind running him in the Gold Cup was that on any other track he wouldn't get a blow in against One Man, but I knew that if he could keep tabs on him then his stamins would come into play. Maybe he

ought to wait another year, but then we thought that before the Gold Cup, and he was in such good form that I let him run, because you never know what next year will bring."
The expectation must be that Go Ballistic will be behind the

Aintree tapes in three weeks' time, but a former ante-post favourite for the race, Coome Hill was definitely ruled out yesterday. "He's got sore shins and it will keep him off for a while," Walter Dennis, whose runner was a forlorn seventh of the eight Gold Cup finishers, said vesterday. "That wasn't his true form. Jamie Osborne said be gurgled at the top of the hill and with the ground as firm as it was he let him come home in his

Danoli is reported by Tom Foley to be fine after his Gold Cup fall and, like Mr Mulligan, started his well-earned summer holiday yesterday. "He's good and sound," Noel Chance, Mr Mulligan's trainer, said yesterday. "He's got a few cuts and abrasions but it's a long way from his heart. He's a serious horse."

Just bow serious a horse Lord Gyllene is should become apparent shortly before two o'clock today. The 8-1 Grand National favourite with Ladbrokes will carry top weight in the Midlands Grand National. the feature event on a Unioxeter card which, for all the efforts of the track's ambitious managers, will always struggle against punters' Festival hangovers.

Lord Gyllene won the Singer & Friedlander National Trial over course and distance last month, to the delight of Stan Clarke, his owner, who is also Uttoxeter's chairman. He is now creeping up the ratings. however, and may struggle to give weight to SEVEN TOW-ERS (nap 1.50), another im-prover. Thursday Night (next best 1.15) may help to ease the pain after Thursday afternoon.

UTTOXETER

should take this. The mare was run-

ner-up to well-handicapped Cariboo

L15: Grooseman is capable of win-

ning this off top weight but is in-

consistent, Thursday Night has

plenty of ability too, but looks a dif-ficult ride. Lord McMurrough im-

last time and bails from a shrewd sta-

Gold, at Huntingdon last time.



Holiday snap: Mr Mulligan, the Gold Cup winner, yesterday begins a break from the Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport track after his arduous Cheltenham success

Judicious Captain to be popular order at 14-1

Sall By The Stars

Miss Disko

and Call

1.15 Jackson Flint

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2.25 MR PICKPOCKET (risp)

1.50 McGregor The Third 4.05 She

GOING: Good (Good to Firm pauches on hurdles course in straight).

Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yd.

Joins course, ADMINGION: Clath 520 (OAPs \$13); Testernalls \$12 (OAPs \$7); Course

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: E Belley - 25 winners from 118 ratuers at a ratio of 22.1% giving a return to 4.51 level stake of -50.52; D Nicholaon - 21 winners, 91 runners, 23.1%, -57.56; N Twiston-Davies - 20 winners, 104 10-2 ranners, 55.00; P J Hobbe - 15 winners, 82 ranners, 18.2%, -515.58.

LEADING JOCKEYER E Dunwoody - 39 winners, 163 rides, 23.9%, -642.30; J Onborno - 128 winners, 93 rides, 30.1%, +557.22; A Magnire - 24 winners, 116 rides, 20.7%, +55.05; N Williamson - 23 winners, 141 rides, 10.7%, 517.73.

BLINEREED FIRST TIMES: Coat D'Estravel (visored) (3.00), Garrylough (visored) (3.00), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Nove.

LONG-DISTANCE BURNNERS: FIR De Creason (4.05) sent 236 miles by James Adam from Westrather, Bordens Judicious Captain (2.25) sent 223 miles by Mrs Jane Storey from Selso, Bordets:

12.45 WITERSALLS MOVICE HANDICAP CHASE FINAL (MARKES) (CLASS C) £15,000 added 2m 5f

FIRST SHOW How they bet on today's televised races

Uttoweter 12.45

icap chase at Uttoxeter (12.45). lands Grand National Handicap

Lord Gyffene

Seron Towers

lo@regor The Th

Act The Wing

9-1

3.00 Conti D'Estruval 3.30 Bobby Grant 4.05 Shekels :

Country Store is a top-priced 16-1 with the Tote – William Hill go 12-1 – for the novice hand- 225 at Uttoreter. In the Mid- Tote go 8-1.

ian Davies

LACITIO	nes — vce	poeter 1.5	υ	Uttox	eter 2.25	
Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokee	Tota	Horse_	Ladbrokee	
7-4	7-4	2-1	9-4	Footrot Romeo	3-1	1
7-2	11-4	11-4	11-4	by House	3-1	100
9-2	8-1.	5-1	6-1	Mr Pickpocket	5-1	
9-2	5-1	6-1	5-1	Kamilance	6-1	
12-1	10-1	12-1	8-1	Monymons	7-1	
18-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	The Shy Padre	6-1	1
14-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	Major Look	10-1	1
20-1	25-1	16-1	20-1	Indicions Captalo	14-1	
25-1	25-1	. 22-1	16-1	Paviore	25-1	3
100-1	150-1	68-1	100-1	Ballyclougest	50-1	3
y a Min	the odds, plac	es 1, 2, 3		Each-way 6 quarte	r the odds, plu	æ 1. :
֡	7-4 7-2 9-2 9-2 12-1 14-1 20-1 28-1 100-1	Com William RE 7-4 7-4 7-2 11-4 9-2 8-1 9-2 5-1 12-1 10-1 18-1 12-1 14-1 18-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 100-1 150-1	Comm Williams Hill Language 7-4 7-4 2-1 7-2 11-4 11-4 9-2 8-1 5-1 9-2 5-1 6-1 12-1 10-1 12-1 18-1 12-1 12-1 14-1 18-1 14-1 20-1 25-1 16-1 28-1 25-1 22-1	Come Williams ISS Lactorology Total 7-4 7-4 2-1 8-4 7-2 11-4 11-4 11-4 9-2 8-1 5-1 8-1 9-2 5-1 8-1 5-1 12-1 19-1 12-1 8-1 18-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 14-1 18-1 14-1 16-1 20-1 28-1 16-1 20-1 28-1 28-1 28-1 16-1 100-1 150-1 68-1 100-1	Comm Williams Hill Langbrokens Toke 7-4	Comm William Hill Lingbroless Total 7-4

The progressive LORD GYLLENG has been reach a some and a half since beeting Salor. Jim over three rules here before Christmes, but he has added too more who over the course since then, the leave over this distance, While it's the hand-object that while in the end, jury dystem at least, here the build to carry top weight and his enthusiasm for the job doubt enable him to squeeze another with before his is accepted right out of it. Lord Gylen's progress the second by the later contains the Course Towards when the his till in these strains.

this season has been meathed by Seven Towars, who look his tolly to three straight who with a circlest of by Hause and Milleshin in Newcaste's 4m1f Elder Cross four weeks ago.

sent a census or ny reason and measure in reseasons a sent a core of receive on verse ago, the was even more value than the official eight-length winning meight and it's most fixed before on the form on Sto worse terms. The only thing he might be builted on a that he sales; a white to verse up and Lord Gyllene's front-running style may leave him with a bit to do. Act The Wall is also chaping a four-timer. He is stepping up in grade and distinct in Castinich win over half a mise least is the furthest he has gone so ten but has impressed with the order of this wind word eight furness of weeklet. The distincts shouldn't be a tooling with the order of this wind.

with the style of this sains and jest jumps of realignt. The distance shouldn't be a propern for Sisters Stangtonies, a strong-finishing that in the big mouse translations the Punchestown Festival test April, it's only the fission ground that detrects from her chance, likelinegor The Tallets, neck desired by General Wolfe over time makes at Dompatter recently, in his first run for three months, were a particularly good effort. Whether he has sufficient stammak is an-other metter, as his Chellenterin who over 3m77 was a cross-courny chase run at a slow-er pack. Blastimweasweigh is a first-pount performer and is 17th better in compared or fourth behind Lord Gylane here Card2f) in January.

Selection: LORD GYLLENE

2.25 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE FINAL (CLASS C) £20,000 added 3m 2f £14,070

-10 declared
Minimum weight: 10st. True handings weights: The Sty Padre 9st 12b, Articleus Captain 9st 10ts, Pado

or Scr 3s, Beljebogen Act 10s.

BETTMC: 5-2 Mr Pictocciet, 5-1 Pactest Reseau, 4-1 by House, 9-1 Kambines, 8-1 Monymous
12-1 Jadfebous Capies, 18-1 others
1996: Even Bur 8 10 5 0 McCam 14-1 Mrs C J Back 6 mm

1995: Sen Bur 8 20 5 0 McCan 14-1 (Mrs C.) Bado 6 am FORM GUIDE

Kanditazo, a lightly-raced seven-year-old, was having his first run over fences when an 1.1-longth winner from Monyneses, with Major Look another 17 langths back in fourth, at Manket Resen in Jarrusy. He's 1.70 worse in with both but won so easily the winning margin could have been double. Karakazo was fighting a losing boths after amost falling at the first at 7 oversithr last time. That run can be ignored but his lack of experience is bound to be a handloop against the likes of RV HOUSE, a one-time deport staying hurder who is getting at the part of the run can be ignored but his lack of experience is bound to be a handloop against the likes of RV HOUSE, a one-time deport staying hurder who is getting and unseating his side in a slight lead at the final fence at Burgor in November with conductable wins at Societified (Sm3t) and Market Racen (Sm4t). As if that wasn't enough, by House ran perheps his best race so far when second to Seven Towers in the Elder Critics at Naccastle four weeks ago. He tidn't quite see cut that market on but his stamins will be an easist here and he seams reasonably treated on the same mark as New-castle with negation face? Richard McGrath taking 5to off again. Ner Piclapodiet had shown planty of promise before finally getting off the mark in a handloop at Taurton (Sm) last month. Although better when there is plenty of out in the gird ground, this secretable tray should be expended to the Pichard before and he is sure or be thereabouts. Foother Romano, another recent Telescon winner of his qualifying hear at Taurton and, fester ground or not, is weighted to go close.

Selection: NY HOUSE.

3.00 DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 5f £4,509

| CLASS C) £6,500 added Zm 57 £4,509 | 3.300F GARRILLOUS RD (0) (67) (1) White I Genute 8 11 10 | 5.6511 | 5.050 PES MOTTES (FR) (9) Robert Opten G Roberts 8 11 7 | 5.65512 | 5.0000 DESIRATES (FR) (9) Robert Opten Resp (6 Baiding 7 11 4 | 5.65512 | 5.0000 DESIRATES (FR) (14) (9) Rotted Resp (6 Baiding 7 11 4 | 5.65512 | 5.0000 PES MOTES (10) (10) (10) Robert Namy (6 Baiding 7 11 4 | 5.65512 | 5.0000 PES MOTES (10) (10) (10) Robert Namy (6 Baiding 7 11 4 | 5.65512 | 5.0000 PES MOTES (10) (10) Robert Nam (7 Colored 10) (10) (10) RD (10) R

1/040-14 KOMMKAZE (36) (8F) (Abjur 8 Greenstory) K Bailey 7 11 10 _____ 263F41, MR PECKPOCKET (80) Upra Holmed Main H Knight 9 11 8 ____

2 269F41, MR PRICUPCICEZ (90) Usbr Hahred Man H Knight 9 11 5
3 420112 MY HOUSE (20) (Mrs L R Joughn) J O'Neil 9 11 0
4 324122 MOWNINGSS (20) S' Preed) Mrs S Smith 6 10 13
5 21/5444 MAUOR LOOK (92) (22) (2) (Mrs H J Carrier) S Brookelve 9 10 11
6 20-270 PRE-SHY RAMES (21) (Judy Cobheny C Brode 7 10 6
6 575-370 Res SHY RAMES (20) (Mrs distorant Mrs J Poment 8 10 0
6 577-315 MORGONIS CHYDMIN (18) (Mrs Distorant Mrs J Surey 10 10 0
9 0-05511, PRATONA (18) (Mrs Marginet McClamer R Rame 7 10 0
10 6-PP003 BALLYDOUGAN (5) (Mrs Robin Marginet R Martines 9 10 0

0-35 5.1

12.45: Harvest View won on this track five weeks ago but flopped when a bot favourite at Wincanton next rime. Fathoming this mares' event is complicated by Tim Forster running both Second Call and Sail By The Stars. The latter looks best of the pair though she would be bet-ter suited by rain softening the go-

ble in good form - though Domaping -conditions, which Tellicherry would also appreciate. But if the course rides fast, GOLDENSWIFT pel is closely handicapped with this one. Perhaps this event can go to JACKSON FLINT, who has regained his old sparkle. This nineyear-old likes fast ground, looks well weighted and has the assistance of Richard Durwoody.

1.50: Lord Gyllene, an extravagant jumper, has run up a spectacular hat-trick of victories here in the last three months and will be backed to make it four. This front-runner may be vulnerable off a handicap

however. The one to take advantage GREGOR THE THIRD. Gordon Richards's 11-year-old runs off the same mark as when caught only on the line by General Wolfe at Haydock three weeks ago,

2.25: MR PICKPOCKET is stronger horse this season after returning from injury and appears a good bet after winning readth at Taunton last month. As a whole though, this card looks hazardou for punters anempting to recour Cheltenham losses.

3.00: CONTL D'ESTRUVAL seems to be steadily regaining the form that saw him achieve four consecutive wins last season. Tony McCoy may be able to get this one's head in troot for the first time this campaign.

3.45 TH GROUP GOLD CUP H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m 3f 110yds

4.15 OPAL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 7 deciared BETTENS: 7-4 Normacange, 9-4 Amber Spurk, 3-1 Debenstr Date, 12-1
Oncodes, Romalica, 15-1 Plumbridge, 33-1 The Wayward Sinhop

4.45 HELB BULL SYSTEMS NOVICE H'CAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 7f

31F0F4 SPIRME TO GLORY (22) (D) P Heywood 10 11 4

544313 TOURSTYS OFT BUILDINGS GT Mode 7 11 13 M Bestelor (7)

RESULTS FAKENHAM 2.10: 1. ANTIGUAN FLYER (Monael Brenna): 20-1: 2. General Shirley 8-1: 3. Arch Angel 7-1. 12 tan. 3-1 fer Ruth's Gamble. 11, 2 (G Proformou, East Haring, Tote: F33-50: £7-70. £2.40, £1.80. DF; £187-50. CSF: £168-81. Yncast; £1,153.53. Inc. 200. 86.

£2.0.40.

2.40: 1. WHAT CHANCE (Mr A Charles-Jonesi 7-2; 2. Gaizig 12-1; 3. Gypsy King 5-1, 10 ran. 11-10 fav Anse 15th). 3/4, 2. (Mrs. H. Mobley, Brackleys, Total: £4.50; £1.40, £4.00. £1.70. DF: £24.50. CSF; £40.25, Tro: £33.30. NR: Broad Steane. 8.10; 1. PATS MINISTREL (A Obbon) 9-1: 2. Artic Wings 9-4; 3. Whitppers Delight 100.30. 5 ran. Evens tay Hawsen Youth 14mi. 2. 20. R. Tomphon. Newmerken. Total: £4.60;

2, 20, IR Champion, Newmerketh, Total \$8.67; £3.70, £1.50, DF; £12,00, CSF; £28,73. 3.40: 1. BARFORD SOVEREIGN (A Dob-bri) 3-1; 2. Kirdawi 6-4 fav. 3. Ajder 8-1. B bon 3-1; 2. Nortand 6-4 lax, 3. Ajdar 8-1. 8 ran. Hd, 16. U Fenshawe, Newmarkett, Totos 44.80; E1.70, E1.70, E1.70, E1.70, E1.24.80, CSF: 67.85. Incast: £29.50. Inc: £5,70. Nike Inshemerakt.
4.10; 1. BROGEEN LADY (P. Nivery 6-4 fax; 2. July Boak 4-1; 3. Charter Lane 12-1. 8 ran. 2½, 18. (D Gardotto, Wamage, Totes 23.30; E1.80, £2.20, £2.50. DY: £8.50. CSF: £8.02.
4.40; 3. El 6090 NA Berna 3-1; 2. Tapera 4.1; 3. Tapera

18.02.
4.40; 1. FLORED IM Berryl 3-1; 2. Transish 9-2; S. Formidable Partner 9-4 law. 7 ran. 22. %. (C Brooks, Lambourn). Tota: 13.80; 12.10, 11.60. DF: 18.60, CSF: 116.84. NR: 0 N Realy.
5.10: 1. MUHANDAM (P Henryl) 6-1: 2. Wentworth 2-1; 3. Air Commoduro 5-4 law. 8 ran. 6, 3, 1Mr. D Hane, Newmarkett, Yoke 17.60; 12.10, 11.00, 11.50, . 0F: £10.30. CSF: £18.36.

Piecebot: £291.00. Quadpot: £18.10.

HYPERION 2.10 Hangover 2.40 Cheerful Aspect 3.10 Buck land Lad 3.45 Rachael's Owen 4.15 Normarange 4.45 Nordic Spree 5.15 Big Stan's Boy

GOING: Chase course — Good in Soft (Good in places): Hurdles — Good to Soft (Heavy in places in back straight a.

III Leit-hand, undulanng course. Stiff lences.

III Course in SE of turns on BC028. Linguiseld station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMINSTON: Members \$15, Tatteraille SB. CAR FARK: Chob 53; remainder free.

\$15

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: Eway Bold (4.45). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN OATS: EIA Agapt Mod (2.10). won at Fortwell on Tucaday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNESS: Riseupwilliereflly (2.18) has been sent 183 miles by D Basect from Oakford, Devoit.

2.10 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HICAP CHASE (CLASS G) £2,900 added 2m 4f 110 yds

~ 6 DECRETED — 6

240 GLED VENTURE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) E3,900 added 2m 3f 110yds

1 51-2131 SPURDD HYME LIST (C 7 Case, 5 12 0 ... M A Rizgarald

2 467 CHARLETS RILLY (81) 8 De Hoen 6 11 2 6 Upton

1 COLERY CHARLE (12) 1 Fact-Heyes 5 11 2 Henry (3)

5 72 COLERY CHARLE (12) 1 Fact-Heyes 5 11 2 Henry (3)

5 25 EM DE COLLOGEE (81) My (Rotterds 5 11 2 ... M Returneds

5 00-PP SUPPEME CREATMER (84) My (Rotterds 5 11 2 ... M Returneds

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10 TORALA (18) N Charlot 5 11 2 D Lanty

11 CHENYLL SHEET (A6 EXT (87) Forster 4 10 23 M HEMBORDER

251 ELA ARAPI MOU (15A) (4) G1 Moore 4 10 13 P Moley

10 ZZ3 ML DONE (19) Stefact 4 10 2 N Mans

- 10 denimed
DETTIME: 2-1 Chaorita Aspect, 9-4 Splendid Hyme, 7-1 Checky Charlie,
Ear Agapt Mos., 10-1 Eas De Colegne, 12-1 All Done, 20-1 others

- 6 doctored - M. Ronger SETTRAC event Buckless Lad, 2-1 River Laven, 9-2 Red Beam, 5-1 Fichu, 12-1 Copper Cable

5.15 (NTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds 1 30 BIS STAM'S BOY (59) (Brook 6 11 2 D Ballaghar 0 EXPRESS ARAIN (7) M Hayne; 5 11 2 M Williamson 3 O MR ROBSTEE (66) 4 Chamberlan 6 11 2 D Ballaghar 5 PEACE MINISTRY BOY 10 6 D 11 M A Hitgestald COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A Hitgestald COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A Hitgestald COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A Hitgestald COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE (1 or 6 ID 11 M A HITGESTALD COUNTRY HOUSE, 3 ID United Squary, 5-1 Big Stan's Boy, 8-1 Whisky William, 10-1 Express Again, 18-1 Peace Intendive, 20-1 others

POLKESTONE 2.00: 1. FLASH IN THE PAN IN McFarland) 11-7: 2. Laure type 6-1; 3. Pedal-tothemetal 9-4 fav. 11 ran. 8. 7. U Moore.

tothernetal 9-4 fiv. 1.1 ran. 8, 7, U Moore, Ardoverl, Totre, £7.30, £2.30, £2.70, £1.10, Dr. £2.40, CSF; £2.40, ESF, £2.40, £1.70, £1.10, Dr. £2.6, OS. £2.40, £1.70, £1.20, £1. 8 mm. 3, nk. (N Henderson, Lambourn), Totae £1.20; £1.00; £2.40; £2.70; OF: £2.80; CSF: £2.28, Tno: £4.40. NR: Smart Remark.

3.30: 1 THE CARROT MAN IP Hoot 7-4 tav: 2. Coolteen Hero 3-1: 3. Lasetta 13-2. 4 gan. 24. dist. (P Winkworth Dunstrol), Tote: £2. 40. DF. £3.30. CSF: £6.48. NR: Pharsille. 4.00; 1. CARACOL (I Leacembe) 6-1; 2. Mullimor 8-1; 3. Swinging States 7-2, 12 ran. 3-1 fav Marage Ol Windsor (pulled upl. 3, 3½, (1 Newlie, Newport), Tota: £8.70; £2.30, £2.60, £2.30, DF: £25.00, CSF: £55.18, Tincast: £189.64, Tinc: £41.80.

A 30: 1. ROYAL SALON IR Johnson 5-1; 2. Shamarphil 13-2; 3. Yeoman Warrior 11-2, 10 ran. 5-2 fav Sugar Hill Jouled upt. 24, 74, 79. [P. Bowen, Haverford West), Toto: 58.00; 52.60, 51.90, 52.40, .0f; 514.40. CSF: 533.73. Treast: £167.32. Tre: £36.20, McControl Control Co

NR: Cruse Control.

5.00: 1. SUMBAY VENTURE (M A Fizgerald) 15-8 tax; 2. Shebang 4-1; 3. Salvar Sirocco 14-1, 16 ram. 9., 39., 10 Henderson, Lambourn. Total: E2.70; E1.20, £1.80, £6.80, DF: £5.40, CSF: £9.41, 7no; £65.00. Jecknot: £11.083.50.

Placepot: £58.00. Quedpot: £11.70. Place 6: £67.48. Place 5: £42.15.

SOUTHWELL

SOUTHWELL

2.20: 1. MOORRAKING (G Parken) 9-1: 2. Kithelmentyra Girl 7: 1: 3. Dirab 7: 1: 4. Haste in in Vasta 8: 1. 16 ran. 5: 1 to: Widthe. 1, ni. 17 Ethernagton; fote: £1.79; £3.50, £2.40, £3.10, £2.80, DF. £90.00, CSF: £66.82. Thouse: £450.94. Tho: £3.42.0: £55.91 carred forward to Herstand 5:30 to day, NR: Mr Speculator.

2.50: 1: SOUDER COVE (D Sweeney) 3: 1: 2. Flast Gold 20: 1: 3. Live Project 9-4 fav. 10 ran. 2: 6. 2½. (Marvin Meade). Tota: £5.80; £2.10, £3.00, £1.30, 0F: £37.50, CSF: £63.67, Ino: £15.10.

CSF: £63.67, Tuo: £15.10,
3,20: 1. BONYALIJA MILL. IR Having
CO-1: 2. Barwell Boy 8-1, 3. Impich 33-1,
9 ran. 4-5 lav Saratoga Red. 11-, 17. IA
Streeten. Tota: £54.20; £9.10, £1.20,
£1.80, F: £98.70, £5F: £177.05, Tree
£170.80: £125.21 canted toward to Hemlord 5-30 locky.

3.50: 1. DOUBLE-0 (K Fellon) 5-1; 2. The Wyandotte Inn 4-1; 3. V IP Charille 4-5 fav 4 ran, 6, 1 /s. (W Jarvis). Total: £4.80. DF: £5.30. CSF: £20.58.

4.20: 1. BRIRROR FOUR SPORT IS Seed 10-1; 2. Aspecto Lad 11-4; 3. Mardrew 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 3, 4. (M. Johnston), Tota: £11.90; £4.20, £1.90. DF: £23.60, CSF: £37.07. 4.50: 1. SQUARE DEAL IS Webster 12-1; 2. Major Mouse 8-1; 3. Desert la-vader 100-30. 9 ran. 3-1 lay Northern Fan (5th), 1-/, 15 Bowning, Totes 114-00; 14-00, 11-80, 11-50. DF: £34-10. CSF.

\$20:1. GENUINE JOHN (I Branchof) 11-8 fav. 2. Evening in Parts 4-1; 3. Wit Do 5-1. 6 ran. 17: 1-4. (J Parkes). Total E2:20: 52:60, 64:00, DF: 64:60, CSF: £7:02. Placepot: £4,767,10 Quadpot: £608 20; Place 6: £3.527.27, Place 5: £1,236.85.

£101.10. Trio: £129.10. NR: Roar On Your

¥ THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES PESSOES UTTOXETER 971 981 NEWCASTLE 972 982 LINGFIELD 973 983 HEREFORD 974 984 WOLVERHYTON(E) 975 985 0891 261 970

1998 water 7 11 0 Guy Lews 6-1 (w Clay) 13 am

For such a small field this is still a tody event, though the novice EDGEMOOR PRINCE is
the one most littly to have improvement in him. For such a gand stamp of a house Edgemoor Prince seemed to have a lot on his plate over Warwack's strap to an ord a high miles
most time, but he lesset on in most determined beation after teading five out to hold Lats Beters time, but he lesset on in most determined beation after teading five out to hold Lats Beters time, but he lesset on in most determined beation after teading five out to hold Lats Beters time, but he lesset on in most determined beating and Grouventeem at Warwack (2m3).
Hearing can out a wide-margin wanter from Runeway Petes and Grouventeem at Warwack (2m3),
Hearing and out of wide-margin wanter from Runeway Petes and Grouventeem at Warwack (2m3),
hind Reaganesque and Lord Micharrough these the following month. A 6th put with sensecurent wanter Lord Micharrough gives Domespel every chance, especially ofter his latest
securent wanter Lord Micharrough gives Domespel every chance, especially ofter his latest
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two good races since resenting to hunding after a spell of novice chasting and a missiste at
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two good races since resenting the resent hunding after a spell of novice chasting and a missi FORM GUIDE

<u> </u>	ANDS GRAND NATIONAL HICAP	
1.50	MARSTONS MEDI ANDS GRAND NATIONAL HYCAP CHASE (CLASS A) £50,000 added 4m 2f £30,867	
	CHASE (CLASS A) 2-50000 (Carley W Carley S Brooknew 9 17 10 A Bobbin LORD (SALIER (CD) (Sarriey W Carley S Brooknew 9 17 10 A Bobbin LORD (SALIER CO) (SALIER (SALIER) (SALIER CO) (SALI	
2.33111		
0554-06	SCHOOL ER (S) (Actual Ferrari S McCourt 11 2000	

9 P.29542 MENURSPRIME (14) Per-cent remark it was in the 11 10 0...
10 19-1044 SPECIAL ACCOUNT (28) (Terry Excito) C Symust 11 10 0... — 16 deplared —

- 16 deplared —

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- 18 d 62: BETTHE: 15-6 Lord Syllene, 190-36 Seven Trinoch, 11-2 Act The Mag, 5-1 McGragor The Third, 5-1. Circler Simplemic, 12-1 Misselle, 14-5 Massimvestrate, 20-1 Resumpairs, 23-1 others 1950: Another Decise 6 10 0 B Power 14-1 (E.M.O'Suffice) 17 am

lough won the Instances. Maries' First here 12 months ago and came right book to her best with an easy win after Beatson had blundered his chance sway when their or obliness at Kempton in January. She's in a visor this time after felling in front the at Sandown less time and has to come into the rackoring with the ground in her favour. Coast D'Estravol, will also appreciate the tester ground and is coming to hand after invaling below from for much of the season. Last year he won four times in a four-week spell in March/April (the least off a handlesp mark of 115 compared to today's 112) and he was going on nicely at the finish when third behind Frickey and Deadry Celle of Concester a formight. The Strikers he wore in France are on for the first time in this country and he is one for the forecast before going on to a successful and-olesson spell.

Selection: DISCO DES MOTTES 3.30 WEATHERBYS INSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 acided 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £3,501 4.05 PRUE FARMER 17TH BERTHDAY "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,390

pau sava, o-e maggiant, a-1 carestes, o-1 sectors de materiale, 8 son, 12-1 Eurofest Pet, 19-1 others 1996: Plying Instructor 8 11 6 R Belleny 4-1 (P R Webber) 15 can

2.15 Advance East 2.50 Dual Image 3.20 Pureval-ue 3.55 Westwell Boy 4.25 Brighter Shade (nb) 4.55 Shanavogh GOING: Good (Good to Firm in place) 1. Eleftherd, out course, with rising run-in.; south, gallopent track.

Course is on Al., 5m N of town. ADMISSION: This 5 I (OAF)
and registered disabled \$10); Tasternally 50 (OAF) and disabled
\$7); Silver Rung \$4 (OAF) and detabled \$2.1. CAR FARK: Free. BLINERED FIRST TIME: Paparazzo (2.15).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nilway (4.25) won at
Sedgefold on Theoday.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Ehallikhoutn (2.15) sem 170
miles by Sir John Barkov Bi from Maipas. (Theshare 2.15 WELCOME TO GOSFORTH PARK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m

NEWCASTLE

2.50 GRAINGER TOWN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 110yds

- 5 decimed
Minimum weight: 20st. The handcap weight: Blazing Dawn Ser 13th.

BETTING: 9-4 Duni image, 5-2 Crosshot, 7-2 Blazing Dawn, 5-1 Tisaber

6	oose-N-He	ther
[TYNE BRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLAS C) £4,850 added 3m
1	31 3416	PUREVALUE (22) Li W Easterly 6 11 10
2	255111	LINEATHEN (292) Mrs. M Reveloy 7 11 8
3	302311	MEADOW HYMN (30) J Feelbaraid 6 21 6
3	5-58055	COOL LUKE (18) F kauphy 8 10 13 Michael Branden (
5	11170	KINDA GROOVY (895) 1 Park 8 10 12
5	026-370	SUDDEN SPEN (80) J Norton 7 10 21 E Carlingtons (
7		LEADING PROSPECT (S) Mis J Goodelow 10 10 10 ID M Howodes - 7 declared -
Pu	revolue, 8-	Listathen, 5-2 Moadow Hymn, 9-2 Leading Prospect, 5 2 Cool Leke, 20-1 Kinda Groovy, Sudden Spin
3	3.55	NEWCASTLE HANDICAP CHASE (CLAS

3.35 C) £6,300 added 3m

1 17-115 STRUM ROYAL (19) (CD) O Bernan 11 12 0... M Breanan
1 17-115 STRUM ROYAL (19) (CD) O Bernan 11 12 0... M Breanan
2 FOO 213 WHISPERING STEEL (10) OD BERNAN II 11 11 15 Stoney
3 23321 ALMOSER (USA) (L7) M W Essety 8 10 12... R Septity
5 604722 CELLOH BOY (8) (CD) Mr. J Goodelow 11 10 10 Mr. R Hate
6 32-2020 DEEP DECISION (49) (C) P Chestrough 11 10 0... R Supple
6 32-2020 DEEP DECISION (49) (C) P Chestrough 11 10 0... R Supple
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6 32-2020 DEEP DECISION (49) (C) P Chestrough 11 10 0... R Johnson
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- 7 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Brighter Shade, 5-2 Milliony, 5-1 Bold Account, 7-1 Malta May, 8-1 Pine Time, 10-1 Constru John, 20-1 Shaft Up 4.55 STUDENT CITY NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS C) £4,850 added 2m 4f

- 8 decimed -BETTRIG: 9-4 Mach Trial, 3-1 Here Comes Hutble, 7-2 Skenzwogh, 5-1 Star's Your Man, 6-1 Tweedswood, 8-1 Lottrik, 14-1 others



FIVE NATIONS FOCUS: Both are outside centres born in 1965, but when they face each other in Cardiff today, Will Carling will be ending his international career while Allan Bateman's is just beginning. Chris Hewett reports



Same age, different futures, grand stage

Carling: Tim not

wo outside centres, born nine months and no more than 100 miles apart in 1965, are now, at long last, direct adversaries after plotting deeply contrasting routes along the highways and byways of in-ternational rugby. When Will Carling and Allan Bateman stare into the whites of each other's eyes across the Arms Park half-way line this afternoon. they will be only too aware of just how different they are. For Carling, who feels instinctively that now is the time to bring down the curtain on a phenomenal decade in the public eye. Ioday's Five Nations finale between Wales and England is a denouement in more senses than one; for Bateman, it is a new heginning, the delayed flowering of a union career interrupted by a not enrirely fruitful sojourn in rugby league. For the barbered and Barboured Englishman. tired of the limelight's unforgiving glare, top-level sport has become a treadmill; for the low-slung and combative Welshman, it is a hrave new world pregnant with possibilities. Wild horses could not drag Carling any where near the plane that will take the Lions to South Africa in a couple of months' time - indeed, if England's former captain

heads south of the equator this summer, it will be in search of the sort of sun-soaked peace and quiet seldom associated with the Springbok citadels of Newlands or King's Park. The opposite is true of Bateman, who is looking increasingly like the centre of Fran Cotton's dreams. Compare comments from the two men this week and gauge the gulf in desire and enthusiasm. "I need time to think." Car-ling said. "There will be no definite decision on my international future until the summer, but it takes up more and

more time and I'm not sure whether

it's what I want any longer. "I'm not saying my feeling for England rugby has greatly diminished but you change as a person as the years go by. Next October, the national team will effectively be two years on my contract with Richmond and I'd achievement. I enjoy competition, though. South cooped up in a hotel for a whole munth in preparation for the pre-Christmas Tests. I don't want guarantee that I'll still be around when the Li- who didn't." to close the door right now but..." and he ons travel again. shrugged his shoulders in a way that suggested he would rather ear uncooked offal from a dodgy abattoir than spend an entire autumn livfrom there and we'll need strength in depth. There not uprooted to play rugby league for Warring-

'it will be emotional but I don't suppose many Welshmen will break down in tears'

ing on a diet of

room service and squad All of which is a foreign language to Bateman, every bit as reticent and withdrawn as his more illustrious peer but vibrantly alive to the challenges that lay before him. "A Lions trip would be the high point of my career and I'd love to get the chance now be-

cause the year 2000 seems an ob- are a lot of good players around in the position, vious time to call it a day. I've got another real match-winners, so selection would be an like to extend it by another one, but there's no Africa would be a tough place to go for anyone

"I'm hopeful, of course. Centre is a key posi-Youth player in 1984 when Carling was making

ton in 1990 in a reported £100,000 deal, he too might have seen and experienced enough by now. As it turned out, the move north and then on to Australia with Cronulla Sharks left. him with a reservoir of unfulfilled union ambition and when Richmond, wellheeled and ambitious, offered him big money to recross the divide, he did not keep them wait-

ing for a reply.

Looking back, the move to Warrington was pretty daft in many ways, certainly very short-sight-ed. The money looked good up front but the deal wasn't all it had been cracked up to be, and while I thoroughly enjoyed the rugby side of things, league didn't do much for me from a financial int of view until I went to a things started happening.

"It was there that it began to dawn on me that I was becoming a more complete player. There was an obvious development in terms of physique and at the same time, little things in my game began to improve: ball-handling, the ability to spot a gap, defensive organisation.

"When Wales toured Australia last summer I heard that they were looking to talk with me about coming hack but there was no contact. I flew over from Sydney to play league in the European Championship and about three weeks later, Richmond got in touch. It moved very quickly from there; the Barbarians picked me for their game against Australia - fantastic thrill, that, especially for someone who went north after winning just four caps, none of

them against a major southern hemisphere nation - and when poor Gareth Thomas crocked himself before the Test with South Africa before Christmas, hingo! I was

And how. According to Ben Lions loose forward who cap-Bateman

more cultured centre in British rugby. stantly surprised, taken

mond.

there is no

intelligence of his contribution," he said during this week's build-up to the Arms Park. "He's a very quiet type, but when he does talk he makes an enormous amount of sense. Every time I train or play with him he offers some new refinement and if you ask me, there's an awful lot more to come. I honestly think he's capable of anything."

Photograph:

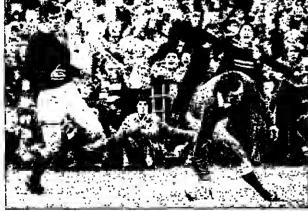
Even Carling waxes lyrical about the striking success of his contemporary's autumnal renaissance. "Very good player, Bateman," he says. "He seems to me to be a good basic footballer, an allrounder who has balance, the ability to read a game and is capable of reacting to any given situation. In a sense, he is more crucial than any other individual to what is a very dangerous Welsh back division.

It may well be, then; that Carling's last hurrah in what remains the most emotion-clogged Five Nations fixture of them all will coincide with a definitive statement of future intent from a rival who, in different circumstances, he might have confronted a dozen times in the last 10 years.

"Emotion? On, it will be emotional" he grees. "Mind you, I don't suppose for a moment that too many Welshmen will break down in tears because it's my last game." And a smile flickers at the edges of those famously dark eyes, as though the very thought of thousands of weeping Arms Park supporters is enough to make life in the gold-fish bowl worth living after all.

Arms Park preservation lobby gathering support

Had Bateman - born in Maesteg and a Welsh



Gareth Edwards touches down for Wales against Scotland

guys, but once you get on the held that fear goes."

chologist Richard Cox among

the entourage at Scotland's

Versailles training session yes-

The presence of sports psy-

According to a certain Italiam poor, of 14th century vintage; the deep cast and most remote circles of the century of plants, some responsibility of the buildoors as well.

If they turn up in centural contained all manner of plants, some as well as speak need by the demotished in a couple of months to make a thing or two, obviously. For generations of Early well to the demotished to make all the cention contractors, they might make any or two, obviously. For generations of Early well to make a flat the early she to the months of the provided of the state of the provided and the transfer of the previously. For generations of Early the cert sweet records and the provided and the transfer of the previously. For generations of early the provided and provided and the provided and provided and the provided and the provided and the pr

Scots bar Benazzi's path to Grand Slam history Students' win gives Welsh morale a lift he said yeslerday. "We did not expect it." rugby league World Cup final-ist. "They were frightening this season and the depth of the Grand Slammers of 1987 and the fact that the skipper of Les

SIMON TURNBULL reports from Paris

Never before has a French Grand Slam coronatiun taken place on home soil. History heckons, and Parisian pomp and circumstance awaits the 14 Frenchmen who have the honour, and the burden, of carrying the Tricolore into the Pare

des Princes' final Five Nations haitle this afternoon. ti is one of the ironies which surround the unexpected denouement to this season's championship that the man who will lead the French XV on their histuric mission once played against them. Not that Christian Carrere, the JPs Bastiat and Rives, or Daniel Dubroca - captains of the four French sides to have elinched Grand Slams on foreign shores - would begrudge Abdelatif Benazzi the unique place he stands to occupy in the Pantheon of Gallic, or in

his case adopted Gallic, greats. The French rughy fratemity was too busy making sure il was not counting its metaphorical

Bleus happened to be born in Morocco and haptised at the international altar for the land of his Arabic fathers. Despite the flair which frazzled les rosbifs at Twickenham a formight ago. there was a marked French reluctance to assume that les haggis will be casy meat.

Jean-Claude Skrela captured the mood of caution, the Grand Slam back row boy of 1977 and coach to the class of '97 insisting: "We have won nothing yet. It would be an error to think we have a Grand Slam in our pocket. The Scots will come to the Parc with the same team spirit as we will have, and they come here with nothing to

"Beating England was only a semi-final victory for us. We still have to play the final. We still have to win it." And winning is something France have not achieved in their last two Five Nations fixtures against Scot-

The fact that just four members of the team beaten at Murrayfield last year will line up today is a fair measure of the cockerels yesterday to dwell on depth of France's casualty list

talent Skrela and his assistant. Pierre Villepreux, have unearthed.

Not only that. Villepreux, one of the finest free-spirit full-backs of his day, has sharpened a near novice backline close to cutting-edge perfection. "To be in this position... c'est formidable."

It is just as well for Scotland that in Alan Tait they have a midfield defensive marshal in whom the sight of the razorsharp Christophe Lamaison will strike no fear. "I've played against the Mal Meningas of this world," Tait observed, re-

flecting on his experience as a

at Parc des	Pri	nces, Paris
-L Sadourny Colomers	15	R Shepherd Mein
Leflammand Bourgoin	14	T Stanger Hav
Lamaison Brie	13	A Telt Newca
Glas Bourgoin		
Venditti Brive	11	K Logan Wa
Aucagne Pau	10	C Chalmers Melin
Accoceberry Begles-Bordeaux		
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d Dal Maso Agen		
Tournaire		
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Miorin Toulouse		
Benazzi	5	R Walnutida - Waterciand a
Pelous Dax	ě.	D Water
LCKN3 ************************************	•	L Aberter tefter betrettertet (#1767)

FRANCE V SCOTLAND

A Grand Slam would be a perfect parting gift. France's most recent dates hack a decade, to the 1987 leam against whom Tait made his debut in the drawn World Cup match in Christchurch that summer. "I'll never forget the try Serge Blanco scored from a tapped penalty," the New-castle centre mused yesterday. "He was under the sticks before we even realised he had run the

The veteran behind the Scottish pack would he ideally placed to compare the Gallic

1997, though if Scotland manage to reproduce the dynamism which steamrollered the admittedly sorry Irish two weeks ago, the expected coronation party may yet be in for an almighty pooping.

The Scots have famously

terday suggests the fear factor may be marginalised in the last championship match to be played in the cauldron of Parc tripped France at the final hurdle before, claiming the grand prize for themselves courtesy of Jim Calder's try des Princes; an autumn Test and the booming boot of Pe-ter Dods at Murrayfield in against the Springboks will be France's final engagement 1984. Kilted souls seeking there before the move to the omens in Paris this morning new Stade de France next may be further encouraged by discovering recollections of an even more painful lastdisch French disappointment within the pages of Midi Ohmpique, France's rugby weekly: when the team led by the remarkable flanker-cumdrop-kicker Jean Prat were thwarted by Wales at Stade Colombes in 1955.

Today Benazzi and his boys become only the second French XV to challenge for a "Grand Chelem" on the Calais side of the Channel Crowning glory beckons in the park of the French princes.

Welsh Universities yesterday came on as a 58th-minute regave their countrymen a boost before today's Five Nations finale with a 28-17 victory over their English counterparts. Carl Morgan, Tristan Evans

and Paul Jones scored tries for the Welsh in a match watched by the England coach, Jack Rowell, and the Welsh Rugby Union chairman, Vernon Pugh.

most powerful performers who have given England a hard time in the World Cup were in action in Sydney in the Super 12 tournament. Two late tries by the substitute flanker, Daniel Manu, helped New South Wales to their first victory in this year's competition as they beat

Canterbury 25-8.
The home side struggled in the first half to break down New Zealanders' stubborn defence and led by only 9-8 at the break thanks to three Matt Burke penalties. The Wallaby fullback kicked two more penalties to make it 15-8 and when Manu

placement for the Test forward Michael Brial, the Australians began to take a grip. But they had to wait until five minutes from time to cross the Canterbury line.

A superb break from David Campese - recalled after NSWs 33-26 defeat by Waika-Union chairman, Vernon Pugh.
While Rowell was hoping to stretched the visitors' defence of spot some promising players for and a clever pass put Mann in the future, some of today's for the touchdown Manu's second try came in injury time. Af-ter a fierce forward drive from a penalty, the Tongan-born flanker barged over the Canterbury line.

England's captain, Pip Sprey, is returning to her birthplace to lead out her team in the Hong Kong Women's Rugby Sevens today. Spivey, 32, spent the first three years of her life there and was desperate to-return before the island's return to China.

ENGLAND SQUAD (for House Kong San foding: G Burns (Histodox), H Clinyton (care), J Todag (Motorico), I Molyanus, terico), P Salvey (Cliny), card), J Exh (Blackreein), A William (Landa), E Mil

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BAINE WEAR IN

Hughes Walking a tightrope

Dave Hadfield talks to the former St Helens coach who now has the job of reviving Wigan in the second season of Super League starting this weekend

ooking at the world through Eric Hughes' eyes non the eve of the new Super League season, it could be difficult to decide whether he has the best job in the game or

Hughes is the man charged with holding together the stronghold that was Wigan; an edifice undermined by drama and tension off the pitch and dwindling resources on it.

"I know what people are thinking," he says. "Eric Hugh-es has come to the club just as it's about to collapse under

him. I still see it as a great opportunity, and you don't turn nities like this.

They say something else about Hughes. They say that he was the coach discarded by St Helens just as they approached take-

off velocity and that his Graeme West, but neither he appointment at Central Park shows that the balance of power in the oldest rivalry in the game has shifted fundamentally. Wigan are now taking Saints'

Teople are discarded all the time," he says. "It's the nature of the game, but you've got to have confidence in your own ability to do the job."

Although it was only after the appointment of the Australian, haun McRae, as his successor that Saints began to win tropuies, Hughes is entitled to

"I think I did a pretty good joh at St Helens. I knew I had problems when I took over an ageing team with no money in the bank to change it without a lot of wheeling and dealing.

When I left, they had a young team that was just about to take off. I'm proud of what I did at St Helens."

What he was originally brought in to do at Wigan was the job at which he has few equals: identifying and nurturing young talent. Few would have doubted his ability to make a success of that.

People are taking full rediscarded all the few months later for the time... You've whole shooting match is a difgot to have faith ferent matter in your ability to bad no hesitation in acceptdo the job" invitation to

> nor anyone else expects it to be easy for him to put the sense of purpose back into Wigan. The way in which he started the task was revealing. One by: one, the players were called in for a face to face session with

take over from

their new coach. They were invited to talk about how they thought the playing side of the club should be run and how they saw their role in that scheme of things.

Talking to them in a group can mean that the quieter ones



Eric Hughes, the new Wigan coach, believes that the glory days can soon return to Central Park

said. "They won't get it all their own way, but they will be lis-tened to."

One conclusion he soon reached was that the players needed a more structured workng week. We discussed what a fair

working week would be and I've organised it so that they have a few afterpoons off and at least one full day. Everyone needs

The trade-off for that is that don't get a say, so I learned a when they are at work, they are and will lot more this way," Hughes at work. Wigan players are not charges.

quite clocking on and off, but there is a new emphasis on discipline and a more visible work

That is very much in tune with Eric Hughes' whole career. A lean, fit, skilful centre with a distinct mean streak - "I prefer the term committed," he says he won the full range of honours with Widnes and played eight Tests for Great Britain. Unlike

some equally talented players of his era, he was always a grafter and will expect no less of his new

"It's not that he's hrought in a lot that's new," says one of the most gifted, Henry Paul. "We

are all experienced players and

we know all the moves. What he has brought is a new emphasis on doing the hasics properly. The other thing is defence. We were always known as a mean team defensively: we've lost a bit of that and we need to get back to it."

These are limited objectives, but the word from around Central Park is that Hughes has made a good start towards

them. That is just as well, because the time he has available is limited as well. As Hughes points out, Wigan

can guarantee themselves another bad season very quickly. Losing two games was enough to deny them the Super League title first time, so a good start They must make that start

without Va aiga Tuigamala, sold to Newcastle as part of the dis-integration of the playing strength, Kelvin Skerrett, who will be on the bench for Wigan's

first opponents, Halifax, and allowed more autonomy in the Shaun Edwards, who is likely to be the next to leave.

"We do need to rehuild in some areas." Hughes admits. He is in contact with specific players to strengthen positions with which he is not satisfied, but has had the novel problem this week of his chairman heing in court and thus rather preoc-

cupied with other matters. There is, in theory, about £9m in Wigan's coffers from the sale of Central Park to Tesco, hut will Hughes he Photograph: Peter Jay

transfer market than his predecessor? If he is worried about these matters, Wigan's new coach is not showing it. He is positively philosophical about the prospect of Edwards' departure

and still looks around him at

training and sees an enviable

array of talent. "We are a lot better off than Saints were when I arrived there," he says, "I still see this as the best job in rugby

Harsh welcome awaits Skerrett

If and when Kelvin Sleerrett steps up from the substitutes' bench in the first match of Halifax's Super League season. Harrison and Wayne Jackson, at Wigan tomorrow, he will be but he is sure to figure later in assured of a warm welcome from his former team-mates.

The former Great Britain prop, released by Wigan at the end of last season, has signed a one-year deal at Halifax and is in their squad for the game at

There will be no sentiment attached to his return, however.
The lost a lot of mates from this club," said Henry Paul, whose fellow-countryman. Va'aiga since damaging his knee during Tuigamala, has also departed, his stint with Harlequins. Trigamala, has also departed. "But you always my harder against former team-mates. considered because of his ab-"No one was worse than sence on father-to-be duties

back."

at the start of the game by Karl the match.

David Hobbs and Tony Anderson, have John Schuster back in action, but Wigan's Eric Hughes has a series of doubts. Jason Robinson will be given

Shaun Edwards has not been

Kelvin at dishing it out to ex-Wigan players. So this time, Kelvin, you'll be getting some suring him that there is still a Skerrett is kept on the bench

Halifax's caretaker coaches,

until today to recover from an ankle injury. That remains un-likely and there must be a serious risk attached if Gary Connolly plays his first match

place at the club for him even if he succeeds in signing Castle-

ford's Tony Smith. Salford, who play Castleford in their first Super League match following last year's promotion, will be without two of their experienced recent recruits, Andy Platt and David Hulme. Two young forwards, Paul Southern and Craig Ran-

dall, come into the side. The champions, St Helens, whose on-off pursuit of Warrington's lestyn Harris stepped up a notch yesterday, go to London Broncos without Derek McVey, who is hoping to recover from a cracked bone in his wrist in time for next Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final against Salford.

Chris Morley deputises, while Lee Briers continues to stand in at scrum-half for the suspended Bobbie Goulding.

The Broncos have Martin Offiah back in harness, but have a worry over their Great Britain tourist, Tulsen Tollett, who has a shoulder injury.

Leeds will have their influential booker, Wayne Collins, back against Oldham, who hope to be unchanged if their centre, Vince Fawcett, has recovered from mumps.

Work permit problems have delayed the arrival of the new Wigan signing Paul Koloi, the 24-year-old Tongan centre. Koloi, who starred for his country in the World Nines in Australia, is earmarked as a replacement for Tuigamala, now back in rugby union with Newcastle.

Leeds y Oldham Coach Dean Bell has delayed the selec-tion of his new-look Leeds side but the former South Queensland hooker Wayne Collins will return after missing last Sun-day's Challenge Cup win over Feather-

Oddiam have a major doubt over the for-mer Leeds threequarter Vince Fawcett, who is suspected of having mumps, and At Levia, who broke a leg against Leeds last April, is on stand-by.

Big things are expected of the Riunos af-ter a disastrous first campaign in Super League and they should make amends for conceding a rare double to the

Last season; Leeds 16 Oldham 25; Old-ham 28 Leeds 26. Last five League matches: Leeds Will-Wi. Oldham LWILW.

Top sources (1996): Tirles Holroyd (Leeds 13), Atcheson (Oldham) 11; Goals Hol-royd (Leeds) 90, Maloney (Oldham) 45. Match odds: H 5-6, O 16-1, A 5-6 (Old-ham receive 16 points start on the Referee: J Connoily (Widen).

London v St Helens The Broncos include Martin Offiah, who plays outside Greg Barwick on the left wing while full-back Tony Martin has re-

Saints been the defence of their title without scrum-half Bobble Goulding, who is half way through a six-match suspension. Danny Orr, 18, is set for his first team. and injured forward Derek McVey as coach Shaun McRae sticks with the side that reached the last four of the Chai-

The Broncos, despite running the champions desperately close in both marches last season, are seeking a first against the Saints, who have non all previous 10 fedures between the two clubs. Last season: London 28 St Helens 32; St Helens 24 London 22.

Last five League matches: London LWWLW St Helens WWWWW. Top scorers: Tries Banwck (London) 16, Newlove ISt Helens) 38; Goals Banwck (London) 55, Goulding (St Herens) 162. Match adds: H 5-6, 0 14-1, A 5-6 (London receive 10 points start).

Referee: R Smith (Castleford). Salford v Castleford

Salford, promoted as last season's First Orvision champions, must put any thoughts of next Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final to one side as they step up into the hig league but they do so without two of their veteran lorwards. Andy Platt and

Castleford are without centre David Chapman, hooker Richard Russell and prop Sean McVean and include only seven players who were in the starting

line-up in last month's 36-13 home Cup

debut at scrum-half in place of transfer-listed Tony Smith. Last season: No corresponding future. Last five League matches: Saltord WWWWL Castleford WLLWL.

Top scorers: Tries McAvoy (Salford) 20, J Flowers, C Smith, Y Smith (Castleford) 10 each: Goals Blakeley (Salford) 106, Botica (Castleford) 84. Match odds: H 5-6, O 16-1, A 5-8 (Castleford receive 14 points start).

Referee: S Cummings (Widnes).

Sheffield v Paris

After being caught cold in Paris' sensa-bonal launch of Super Laague a year ago, the Eagles have the chance to gain their revenge on home soil at the Don Valley Stadium. New coach Phil Lander has no rijury womes but has yet to close the £60,000 deal that will bring the former Great Britain hooker Steve McCume from Widnes. Pans, still looking for their first win on

British soil, are without injured second rower Troy Bellamy but have prop Adam Peters free from suspension and included in an all-Australian line-up. Last season: Sheffield 52 Paris 18; Paris 30 Sheffield 24,

area, is recommending that in-

vision and sponsorship arrange-

ularly generated funds which the

Top scorers: Tries Senior (Sheffield) 17. Match odds: H 5-6, O 14-1, A 5-6 (Pans Referee: R Connolly (Wigan).

Wigan v Halffax New Wigan coach Enc Hughes picks Craig Murdock at scrum-half for the unavari-able Shauri Edwards but the Warnors are

boosted by the return of Gary Connolly who massed pre-season games with a knee injury sustained playing rugby union. able to recall former Great Britain forward

Michael Jackson, who has overcomback rigury, and veteran prop kelvin Si rett is on the bench against his old club. The Blue Sou have to go back to Octo-ber 1987 for their last win at Central Park. Last season: Wigan 34 Halifax 26: Halifax 4 Wigan 50.

Last five League matches: Wigan WWWWW Halifat IWLWW. Top scorers: Tries Robinson (Wigan) 26. Bentiey (Halifax) 22; Goals Farrell (Wigan) 113, Schuster (Halifax) 113, Match odds: H 5-6, O 16-1, A 5-6 (Hali-Referee: S Presley (Castleford).

Eldredge facing up to quad dilemma

ico skating

Todd Eldredge is facing a tough challenge as he prepares to de-fend his title at the World Figure Skating Championships, which begin tomorrow in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Eldredge, a four-times US champion, will try to keep his ti-tle without attempting to execute a quad, the four-revolution da. He plans to repeat the feat him the title.

jump that nearly all his rivals ave completed in competition. Canada's Elvis Stojko and Russians Alexei Urmanov and Ilia Kulik landed quads earlier this month at the Champions' Series final, and are sure to try

tion jumps. Stojko landed the first clean quad-triple combination in competition and won in Cana-

triple axel to his long programme and a triple-triple combination to his short.

Eldredge has been practising the quad as a safeguard, but gives every indication he will not again, most likely in combinatry it under the pressure of comtition. After burting his right ankle on a triple axel in prac-tice last week, he is less likely to take chances that might cost

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BAF has competition for control of TV

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

A sport set in turmoil over recent

months by political in-fighting,

faces a crucial trial at the annu al meeting of the British Athletic Federation in Birmingham today. A bid by the South of England Athletic Association to loosen the governing body's grip on television and sponsorship deals threatens to fragment the sport. If the SEAA wins the vote of club members in the meeting, and the decision is subsequently endorsed by the British Ath-

letic Federation's Council, it

could undermine athletics' case for receiving Lottery money. A BAF application for annual funding of £5.5m within the recently established World Class Performance scheme is being considered by the Sports Council, which has made it known that it wants to be assured the sport is marching in step before

turning over large amounts of Since the BAF's executive chairman, Professor Peter Radford, announced his resignation in January, the UK Sports Council has been consulting with BAF officers over restructuring the domestic sport's management.

"We feel very strongly that the BAF needs to take a good, hard look at its structure," a Sports Council spokesman said yesterday. Any hreak-up in an uncoordinated, haphazard way which leaves different bodies doing different things, we don't think would be particularly helpful.

That isn't an endorsement on the other hand, of what the BAF is currently doing. The fact that one element of the sport wants to break away shows the sport as a whole bas got a major problem and needs to sort it out."

The SEAA, which has spent the week canvassing for support from the 600-plus clubs in its

ments for their own meetings. The action has been prompted by two main factors. The first is the removal of the British grand prix meeting to Sheffield from its traditional venue of Crystal Palace, where it has reg-

> SEAA has passed to local clubs. The second factor is the adverse reaction within the sport's traditional elements to the way Channel 4 is covering athletics within its new four-year contract.

dividual associations should be able to conduct their own tele-prospective shortfall of £70,000. It may also lead to the Amateur Athletic Association of England withdrawing its 117-year-old event from BAF control - which wants to combine it with the

World Championship trials and staging it on different dates. There has been speculation that in such circumstances, the AAA would turn to the disgraced former British promotions officer. Andy Norman, to help assemble athletes, atthough such an appointment would cause disquict in athletic - and political - circles.

England Under-18s humble Wales

BILL COLWILL

opening seven minutes, sent the England Under-18 team on their way to a crushing 11-1 win against Wales on the opening day of the Home Quad Youth tournament at the National Stadium, Milton Keynes, yesterday. There were also two goals each from Andrew Langlands, Andrew Todd and Paul Wicken.

It might have been different

but for two builliant saves by Eng-

land's goalkeeper Pat Aldridge

from Wales' James Bainbridge

before England had opened

their account. Baimbridge scored

then England were into double figures. Earlier, Simon Lanyon scored twice for the Under Its Peter Wiles, with two goals in the in their 6-0 win over Wales.

England's Seniors begin the Golden Jubilee Tournament in Karachi today against Pakistan with the news that their captain, Russell Garcia, their most experienced player, is sick and could be missing.

All Premier games were postponed because of the Pakistan tournament with the exception of Old Loughtonians' rearranged match against Surbiton, who will be looking to move out of the relegation zone with a win against the Old Boys.

The remainder of the week-

Wales consolation goal but by cnd's National League match-then England were into double es centre on the Division One relegation battles. With Crostvx and Trojans likely to fill the two automatic relegation places, there is a desperate fight to avoid

the next two play-off places.

Oxford University and Hull currently filling those places, both have home fixtures. Oxford who will need to lift themselves after their midweek Varsity match defeat, entertain Edghaston, just three points above them while Hull meet Trojans. Bromley and City of

Portsmouth, currently one point above the University, have difficult away games at the champions, Beeston, and fourth-placed Isca.

Kellogg shows promise

If the proposal is carried, the

Badminton

Donna Kellogg proved herself to be the brightest new prospect in the country when she reached a semi-final in her first All-England Championships at the age

The Derbyshire teenager and her partner. Chris Hunt, a Commonwealth Games gold medallist in mixed doubles. next face the Chinese pair of Liu Yong and Ge Fei, having already heaten two sceded pairs.

On Thursday they came from 8-12 down in the second game to win 15-8 17-16 against the fifth-seeded Russians, Nikolai Zuev and Marina Yakusheva. Arbi.

with Kellogg recovering from a shaky patch during the second game to score heavily at the net.

Denmark's Poul-Érik Hover. the top-seeded men's title holdcr and Olympic gold medallist who lives in Milton Keynes, is only two matches away from becoming the first player in a quarter of a century to win three All-England men's singles in a row. Hoyer's 15-7, 15-12 victory over Indonesia's Budi Santoso set up a re-match with China's Dong Jiong, a player he

beat in the final in Atlanta. The other semi-final is between China's former world junior champion, Sun Jun, and the world champion. Hervanto

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Manchester City's fifth manager of the season has brought stability and the possibility of a play-off place. **Glenn Moore** talked to him about punctuality, his love of music and his disdain for 'Charlie Big Potatoes'

Clark tuned in to City's revival mood

f you frequent the Rhythmic Club, in Islington, you may re-member him. Hangdog face, drooping moustache, sitting on his own in the corner. Yep, that was Frank Clark, maoager of Man-

Lest anyone get the wroog idea, Clark was not scouting for talent, he was watching a maestro: Bo Diddley. Some managers play golf or tend the garden, some drink. Attending coocerts, oo his tod, is Clark's release from the pressures

"I get to all the best places - the Rhythmic's very salubrious," he said with a touch of irony. "I love it, I go on my own and sit in a cor-ner out of the way. The manager recognised me that night, so did the rock critic of the Evening Standard - he even mentioned me in his critique of the show. My wife was well pleased, she said 'you were there then', because she wasn't too sure."

Frank Clark is an untypical manager. He does not leap up and down on the touchline, he rarely curses referees and avoids media puoditry. He does not appear comfortable

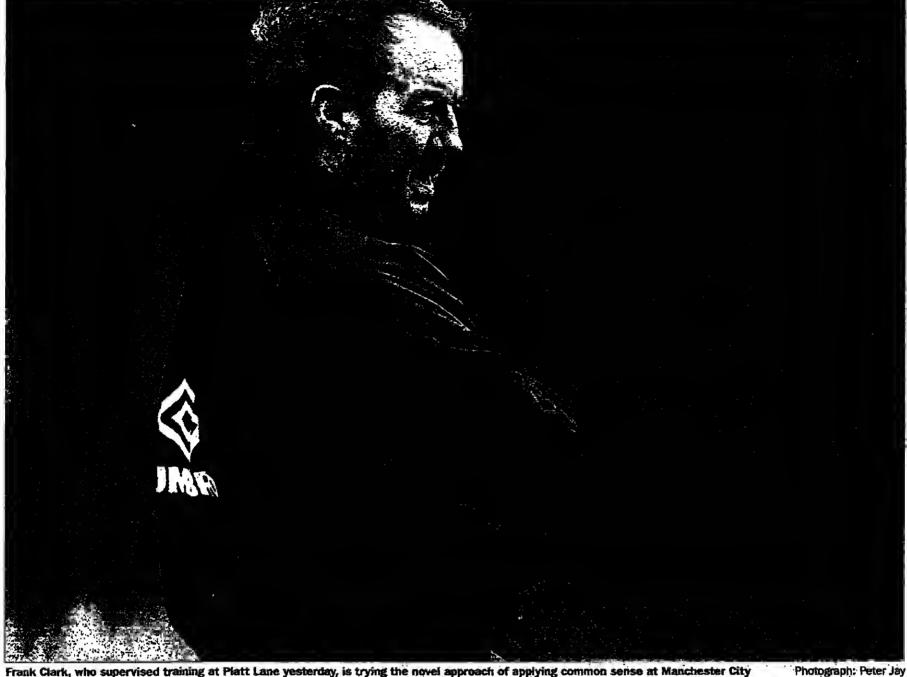
'i like star players, special players, but I don't like that star attitude and I don't see any of that from Kinkladze'

in any of the accepted uniforms, the track-suit, sheepskin or Armani. But while he may look and behave more like the laboratory technician he once was, he is one of the most respected managers in the game. The feeling in Manchester is that, more by accident than design, City have finally appointed someone who really could restore the glory

Clark, 53, took over in late December a few weeks after leaving Nottingham Forest, worn down by the takeover battle and poor results. In the 11 games before he arrived City had won twice; in the next nine League games they won five and drew four, raising expectations of a playoff place. Even Alex Ferguson, the United manager, put a bet on City.

Wednesday's defeat at Birmingham has quietened the mood but a victory today, at Grimsby, will spark the dreams again. "People change from game to game," Clark said. "If we win we're 'back on track', if we don't we're 'out of it'. It is not like that. Promotion was never more than a possibility, and it is still a possibility. I didn't for a minute think we'd win every game."

We are talking at City's Platt Lane training ground, just under a mile from Maine Road. At first sight this partnership hetween the local



Frank Clark, who supervised training at Platt Lane yesterday, is trying the novel approach of applying common sense at Manchester City

council and the club appears to be somewhere where the players can the community link every club should have. However, sharing the playing and social facilities with the public does have its problems. City. like Sunday morning park players, have to cootend with stray balls flying across the pitch as they practice. They also have fans passing judge-ment on the touchline (as well, per-

haps, as other clubs' spies).

"It is too accessible for a professional foothall club," Clark said. "It must have been very difficult for the players when they were having a bad time. At the moment, people want to come and say 'well done' hut it is not always like that.

"You don't want to be in an ivory tower, separated from the supporters, but there has to be a line work in privacy. Even Newcastle closed their training ground when they bad problems.

This accessibility is one reason why the manager's office door has a security-coded lock on it, rather than the revolving door City's turnover of managers would suggest. The office, noted Clark, "is austere" pants so far.

"The elub needed stability," forming. I looked at the teams and we were putting out sides with eight internationals. People at any organisation doo't perform to their

Nottingham Forest v Liverpool

8 Southempton v Arsenel...

like security. I found that at Forest, not so much with players, but the staff. The longer the takeover went on, the more you could see the insecurity spreading.".

In the circumstances Clark's first act at City, a code of conduct, was probably welcomed by his players as an sign of order replacing chaos. but that is partly because it is almost new - being just a couple of years and giving them long lectures. It was old it has only had five or six occu- a case of laying down a few rules and tandards. They are not oppressive, Just basics like turning up on time. City's fifth manager of the season said. "Players had been underperhate going into a dressing-room to hate going into a dressing-room to

start training and finding half of them are not ready. When I say we start at 10.30. I mean 10.30. "The fines are only tenners. It

TEAM SHEET

Blackburn v Wimbledon

Last season: 3-2. Last five League matches: Blackburn WDWDD. Wimbledon DWD.D.

Peace and Don's are in contention to line up for Blackburn – Peace his made only two starts in the last 16 months, while the Greek winger Donis has missed the last two matches through injury. Wimbledon have a full squad to pick from, apart from Holdsworth (doubtly with a rib injury).

best when there is instability, they means nothing financially but it is the principle. It is about discipline and laughter, you can have one without the other but you won't have a good football club if you do.

One or two players have stepped out of line in small ways and been dealt with. They all get treated the same. Shortly after I arrived I read a piece hy someone who had spoken to Georgi Kinkladzej. He nad had ever played for and he thought it was right that he did not get any special treatment." Clark looks balf-puzzled, half-pleased. "I don't

think I'm particularly hard." This brings us on to the Georgian playmaker. Kinkladze, who had been injured during City's good run.

"People have a fixation about him. The first question in the press conference is nearly always: When is he going to be fit?' In that respect it was

win without him. There was no sense in the dressing room of let's show we can win without Georgi but it won't do them any harm. "I don't know him well yet but he said I was the 'hardest' manager he no 'Charlie Big Potatoes' about cert tickets. Referring to Britain's him. I like star players, special biggest band, and City's most fa-

nice that the players showed they can

from him. "We will try desperately hard to keep him - there is no sense of cashing in on him. We would like to think

we can build a team which will al-

an ability to delegate, he cites a lack of ego as one of his strengths (and not in the way of someone saying his

wants to leave, it is down to him. The club have made promises to him and

we would keep them."
There is no "Charlie Big Potatoes" about Clark, either. Along with only fault is modesty). One of the memories of last seasoo is watching Clark after Forest had beaten Lyons in the Uefa Cup in France. Throughhad been calling his name. When it finished, he slowly walked towards them and, with great reluctance, raised an arm.

"It is important to acknowledge supporters but I find the populist thing difficult. I'm happy to take the responsibility but also want to share the praise. I had all my ego trips as a player. Egos get in the way, they cause more problems than any-

A year ago this week Clark was preparing Forest for their Uefa Cup quarter-final home leg with Bayern Munich. Now he is prepar-ing City to meet Grimsby Town. It

"I find the populist thing difficult. I had all my ego trips as a player. Egos get in the way. They cause problems'

has, he agreed with a wry smile, been

an odd year:
When dealing with such contrasts, a lack of ego and sense of perspective are vital. Clark's long experience, as a non-League player with Crook Town, a European Cup winner with Forest, and a decade holding Orient together, are now invaluable.

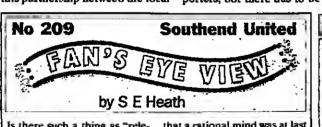
So, too, is family life. He is liv-ing in a hotel but will move prop-erly to Manchester when his younger daughter finishes ber A levels in May, "Moving is an occupational hazard. I've been relatively lucky but I'll never forget the first few days taking my eldest daughter to a new primary school in London. I felt the biggest beel on two legs. She was crying non-stop - she was about eight - and it was the first time we had moved since she was a

These days Clark's daughters are players, but I don't like that star at-mous fans, Clark said: "I guess I'll titude and I don't see any of that have to watch Oasis now, my daughters are into them but they are a hit too modern for me. Anything after 1961 is a hit modern for me.

in music, maybe, but fortunately for City fans his teams play thorlow him to show his special talents oughly modern football.

Bradford must do

without Waddle



Is there such a thing as "relegation kit"? Can something as increasingly ephemeral as these coloured viscose concoctions be so fundamental to a team's success or failure in the league? The effects of "invisible" grey kits on performance are well documented, as is the irrational dependence that most association footballers seem to have on superstition and the fates.

Watching Southend versus Ipswich Town recently I was perturbed that two players seemed reluctant to reappear after the interval, only arriving just as the referee raised the whistle to his lips. It transpired that one of the miscreaots, Andy Rammell, had been wrestling with his contact lenses and the other, Phil Gridelet, refused to leave the dressing-room before him because it was his custom to always be the last on to the pitch. ln view of the team's results

so far one can only speculate with dread just how bad things could have been had he not kept up this tradition. It has even been mooted in crueller circles that if he took his superstition to its logical conclusion and did not come out at all then the team would only beoefit further. However, could the team strip also be playing its malign part?

I must admit to having been only mildly curious as to the design of the much-heralded "new kit" before its first official airing in a prc-season friendly against Tottenham Hotspur. Admittedly, I was fairly cynical about the whole affair in that this would be about the 10th new kit in as many years but I had been lulled into a false sense of se-

curity over the past few seasons. The Southend team had of late been decked out in what was a largely understated and rather tasteful outfit as football that a rational mind was at las in charge of kit selection. I was soon disabused. Both he, and his guide dog, were both obviously criminally insace.

When the team took the field that night there was an audible gasp from the crowd. It was oot one of admiration. My initial opinion was that the tension of the evening had somehow got to "our boys" and they had all been sick down their fronts as they ran out on to the field. Sadly this was

The offending garments are an indeterminate blue colour with an eruption of puce/yellow oo the front. The only explanations I could come up was that the team had unset our beloved chairman and he was wreaking his revenge.

This hizarre "design" ha

even meant that Southend United could possibly have achieved a league first. On two occasions this season, against West Brom and Norwich, they have been ohliged to play a home game in their red away kit. Foolishly the opposition had assumed that "The Blues" played in blue and so had arrived with a yellow strip. No one had thought to mention the sick stain.

Is it any wonder we can't sign anyone? If required to wear one of these shirts in public I would demand a police escort and a blanket over my head. The last time "The Shrimpers" looked this bad they slid into the Fourth Division. Relegation kit indeed!

Consequently the team stagger inexorably towards the abyss and we long suffering idiors begin to reacquaint ourselves with the routes to Shrewshury, Walsall and Chesterfield. It might be apposite, however for the board to resolve that, if they give most of our players the burn's rush in June (as they ought) they allow them to take their kit with strips go. I had begun to believe them. And serve them right!

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES TO BE Nationwide Football Les TODAY 10 Crystal Pelace v Norwich 11 Grimsby v Manchester Cty FA Carling Premiershi 12 Huddersfield v Portamouth 13 loswich v Botto 2 Riaddum v Wimbledon 14 Oktham v Wolves . 3 Everton v Derby 15 Port Vale v Charton ... 18 Reading v Bradford City Withouthester Ibri v Sheffield Word 6 Newcastle v Coventry

17 Sheffield Utd v Oxford Utd 18 Southend v QPR.... Second Division - Blackpool v Preston 22 Bury v Gillingham . 23 Chesterfield v Viyoumbe

25 Millwell v Brumermoteh 25 Peterborough v Stockport 28 Shreesbury v Plymouth . 29 Wedord v Walsall .

Third Division 32 Cartisle v Hereford

Aston VIEa v West Ham

Last season: 1-1. Last five League matches: Aston

VIEa WWDWL West Ham LIWIW.

Vilia are likely to be without Staunton, who is still strugging with an anide injury. West Ham have their £3.5m striker Hanson back from a twomatch suspension, and Portugal's Porfirio could start in midfield in place
of Richon

Everton v Derby County

Last season: Del not play Last five League matches: Everton's Phelan, Parkinson and Thomsen face fitness tests. Youngsters Ball, Allen and Dunne are in the home squad. Derby's top score Stur-

ridge is suspended. Van der Laan has a foot injury end captain Stirrac a knee problem. Laursen and McGrath are both ready to return.

Last season: 2-2. Last five League matches: Menchester Util WATAM. Sheffield Wednesday Dawwww.

Gigs (hamstoring) is fit again for United, and Palister (groin strain) is also
ready to return. Keane is completing a two-match suspension and Johnsen
is doubtful with a back injury, but Scholes and Butt are both fit ahead of
schedule. Wednesday have Blinker available after a two-match ban.

Man Utd v Sheff Wed

Leicester v Middlesbrough Lescester v Middlesbrough

Last season: Did not play. Last five League match
es: Leicester LWWYD, Middlesbrough WDLLV

Leicester's American goalkeeper Melter is on World Cup cury, so Poole returns to the team. Middlesbrough middleder Stamp could return to the

use Mustoe starts a two-match ben and

38 Durlington v Chester ... 34 Eleter v Scunthorpe 35 Hartlepool v Rochila 36 Hull City v Brighton 38 Scarborough v Torquey

Bell's Scottist League 40 Aberdeen y Duniéee United 3: 42 Kirnamock v Mothervelf 43 Rach v Durthmine ...

First Division 44 Autho v Falkirk . 45 Clydebank v Partick . 46 Dundee Y St Johnst 47 St Mitten v Morton 48 String v East File . ond Division

Berwick v Livingston Brechen v Clyde . Ocean of the South v Hamilton Sterviousemuit v Dumbarlon Shareber v Avr....

Newtastie Covers
Left season: 3-0, Lest five hear age
castle WWAL Covering ID DO.

Newtaste styler feedmand is still rund out with the hearst highlight, in the 4-3 defeat at Livetpool on Monday. Covering a will an is sesting a one-match sisperajor to manager Statistics could aw
Dublin back to the forward line from central defence.

Southampton v Are east

East season 0-0: Last five League matches:

Southampton LOWDO, Areanel DLINW.

Sards are without defenders Van Gothel (bar) and Ookid (anide injury).

Evens makes his home debut up from With Seaman and now Like: (poisoned toe) on the injured list, Assent choose the public Harper shead of Barbein, recalled from a ben spell at Wolves, in goal.

forest and increases runners and transcent and backing the improved, though, and he has a good chance of recovering in time. Radebe is back

be medically research in three continue in goal. For Sundantiant Shakett in ready for his first start in three months after a knee highly hier signal. Hesselberg, a Denish Under 21 international, is in their signal.

est Cheises WOLDL, Sunderland IIIWL 16, rested in midweek, should return for Cheises but Lebons

Last season: 2.1. Last five League matches: for-tenban LDLW, Leads LWWW. Ditentiam midfielders Howels and Melson are suspended. Lea

Tomorrow: Chelses y Sunderland
Last season: Did not play Last five League matrix.

PU est Chelses WOLDL, Sunderland LLIVI.

Albion Rovers y Queen's Pari East Soring v Alice Fortar v Montroso Inverness Cal Tv Rose County.

TOMORROW FA Carling Promiership Choises v Sunderland (4.0) ... wide Football Le

First Division West Brommen v Birmers Second Division

Bristol Rovers v Bristol City (1.0). Third Division Leyton Onent v Pulhern (12.0)

Beil's Scottish League Pressier Division Cattle v. Rangers (3.0) Other weekend bottom fothers: Page 26

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE Chris Waddle had hoped to keenly contested fixture will be spend today enjoying a return to the Premiership with Nottingham Forest, writes Rupert City's newly appointed captain lies on his sick bed, unable to

battle against relegation from the First Division at Reading. Bradford have stopped Forest signing Waddle, who wrongly thought his contract could be tom up if a Premier club came in for him, on a free transfer. The former England forward

help the Valley Parade club's

failed to turn up for City's jour-ney to Berkshire yesterday. I spoke to Chris last night and this morning, and he said he's still being physically sick." Chris Kamara, the Yorkshire club's manager, said last night. "Bradford City is my main concem and I do have a good relationship with Chris and I would

not want to jeopardise that. I have to take Chris's word."

The Second Division's most Bristol's 82nd League derby which takes place amid bitter memories of the crowd trouble Metcalf. Instead, Bradford at the last meeting between City
City's newly appointed captain and Rovers, at Ashton Gate in December. Since then, City have banned 20 supporters for life and are waiting to do the same to offiers, after they have been before the courts. "It was a shameful day and I thought seriously of resigning," City's chairman, Scott Davidson, recalled.

That game ended I-1, and the return finds City travelling tomorrow to the Memorial Ground, the stadium Rovers share with Bristol Rugby Club. City have been threatened by the Football Association with the loss of two League points if their fans cause any more tron-ble. They will have just 650 supporters bassed in under police escort, in the all-ticket crowd.

Hateley back at Ibrox

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Several recent meetings between Celtic and Rangers have been labelled the "derby of the decade", but for Glasgow fans it might not be too great an exaggeration tomorrow, when the Ally McCoist, 34, in an experimen from Ibrox head for Parkbead in search of crucial Premier Division points.

Rangers, who are desperate to equal Celtic's cherisbed record of nine successive titles set under the late Jock Stein between 1966 and 1974, are five points ahead of their arch rivals. However, they have major injury problems, which has led to

they sold to the Loftus Road chub for £1m 18 months ago. They need him because Gordon Durie has joined a sick and injured list which also includes Erik Bo Andersen, Peter van Vossen and Sebastian Rozental.

Tomorrow Hateley may join enced Rangers front-line, Andy Goram has both knee and rib injuries so Andy Dibble may make his debut in goal, while their captain Richard Gough may return after missing three games with a calf stram.

Celtic ended their ninematch, 22-month, winless run in the Old Firm fixture with an emphatic 2-0 Teaments Scottish a return to Brux for the 35 year. Cnp. duarter final victory 10 old Mark Hateley:

Rangers have paid Queen's doubtful wift a famisting injury Park Rangers around £300,000 but Tom Boyd schums after sust to re sign the centre-forward pension.

مكذا من الأصل

sport

It seems commercial demands, the root of the problem, will always outweigh concerns for the players' physical well-being

The old argument is set to resurface get your body back in peak condi-once again, that's if it had fully sub-tion in time for Saturday's game. merged in the first place. Should footballers forgo the needs of their country for the sake of their clubs, the glamour of the Azzuri in Rome or vice versa? We often find ourselves in a no-win situation. Of course we feel bonoured to represent our countries, but eventually and inevitably it will have an effect on club form. Every club manager I have played under swears blind that the domestic game following a hig international frequently produces insipid, lacklustre performances from the returning national

why this should happen. You have played an extra game during the week, your opponent may not have, so he will be fresher than you. Travelling itself is tiring, and if you have come back overnight from a hardfought Eastern European tie on the Wednesday, you will not get to bed until Sam or later on Thursday morning. It is almost impossible to

Psychologically it isn't always easy either. Wednesday might have been and Saturday you have to get yourself mentally attuned for a door away asking any top track and field athlete how often he can "peak" in any

one season, it usually isn't more than

half a dozen times. We are asking some of these lads to peak upwards of 60 times a season and often three at a less frantic pace. It is now the times in one week. When representing your country everyone ex-Physically there are good reasons pects you to dig to the very depths of your resources, to go through pain barriers and drive yourself to ex-haustion, Scotland will even use the film Braveheart before a game to help you squeeze out every extra hit of energy. The problem is that exactly the same is demanded three days later for your club.

Quite simply too much is being asked of some players and unfortu-

nately it will continue get worse as the increasing number of domestic games each season become ever tighter and faster. It seems commercial demands, and these of course are the root of the problem, will always outweigh concerns for trip against a team of scrapping rel-egation strugglers. It is also worth number of internationals being played continually rising too, some-thing has to give. Sadly it is often the

quality of play. Continentals play fewer games than their British counterparts and accepted wisdom in the game that our players go into vital international matches and important European club competition games more jad-ed than the opposition.

Managers are aware of this, so while Messrs Hoddle, Brown and co try to get a hold of players as often and for as long as possible, people like Alex Ferguson and Walter Smith are acutely aware of the draining efhave. This is the perfect recipe for Pat Nevin



friction and of course the player is caught in the middle.

I have a great deal of respect for Ferguson and the way he deals with the international dilemmas, which plague the domestic manager. He suffers from them more than most, but also manages to deal with them better than most. He has the experience, the wisdom and importantly, enough money to be able to cope with the inherent problems.

Player burn-out at the end of a season has cost many a championship

stands these physical demands. hence the size and quality of his squad and the frequency with which it is rotated. The idea is to be able to rest any player who is beginning to look jaded and also to give any injured player the opportunity to re-

cover properly.

Most clubs have to play with two or three players carrying injuries at any one time. Apart from slowing them down, it affects the style and obviously the standard of their play. To have real aspirations towards winning the championship, the Manchester United manager knows that carrying players for any reason cannot be tolerated these days.

He has also been able to prioritise regarding which trophies he really wants to go for. Contrast the relaxed reaction of Ferguson when losing to Wimbledon in the FA Cup and Walter Smith's similar body language af-ter losing in the Scottish Cup to Celtic with any other manager in the coun-

and it is accentuated by international appearances. Ferguson well under-know that the championship and Europe are the real prizes these days for clubs with high aspirations, especially financial. Indeed Fergie's attitude towards the Coca-Cola Cup seems to border on contempt, more an opportunity to blood youngsters than a serious competition to be

fought for at all costs. Like other managers Ferguson is quick to protect his protégés, especially the most precocious such as Rvan Giees. He has nurtured this talent too lovingly for too long to allow it to be ruined by short term overuse. He has steadfastly taken the position of flak-catcher when Ryan has been withdrawn (NB not Ryan has withdrawn) from Welsh squads. The Scotsman is doubtless happy to accept the criticism that he doesn't care enough for the Welsh national cause, because he knows how much more difficult it would be for the flying winger to live with such allega-

Andy Roxburgh was so concerned

about the problem of clubs withholding players, that he often urged the Scotland squad to have clauses written into their new contracts which ensured they were to be released for international games. If truth be told, though, the final decision always rests with the player these days, albeit allowing for a certain amount of coercion form the club.

Some players have such a strong national pride and feeling of duty and honour for their country, that the cluh is always considered second. without a moment's hesitatinn. Others are more pragmatic, all too aware who actually pays the wages at the end of the week. Most however simply acquiesce, and endeavour to give their all to everyone, every time, everywhere.

This happens even if it does lead to the odd tired, under par performance, which has the "experts" bemoaning the poor quality of our game, its players and their technique.

Olivia Blair is on maternity leave

. Foxes bring Boro back to reality

They may have reached one cup final and they may be 90 minutes away from another, but for Middlesbrough fans this season will surely be regarded as a shambles if they lose their place in the Premiership come May.

The Coca-Cola Cup finalists and FA Cup semi-finalists are an uncomfortable four points. adrift at the bottom of the table, and a further two points behind the fourth-from-bottom side. The mathematics of salvation will seem much easier if the Teesside team can reclaim: Riverside. Now, though, Rathe three points they have been docked by the Football Association - but no one at the Riverside Stadium can afford to rely upon that particular shove to-

wards the escape route.
Today Middlesbrough go to Leicester City, their adversaries at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final on 6 April. The folk from Filbert Street, unlike their visitors, can just about afford to drop a few points between now. and then, but with their places to play for none of the Leicester side should be in the mood for relaxation.

doubtful with an ankle injury to- ropean Cup."

NICK HARRIS

As Brighton travel to Hull to-

day, the away team's fans are

confident that this season's

higgest battle - for the survival

of the club - is almost over.

current owners and a consortium

led by Dick Knight, a local busi-

nessman and lifelong supporter,

which will guarantee the future

of the club. Full details of the cal, which may include a move

To a new stadium only 500 vards

from the Goldstone Ground, will

Last night. Coral, the owners

of the Hove greyhound stadium,

confirmed that an approach

has been made by Knight's

consortium, seeking at least a

Brighton supporters have

match boycotts. They were par-ture.

campaigned for years against

the way the cluh has been run,

and have staged protests rang-

temporary home.

Boxing

The announced as soon as legal

matters have been finalised.

An agreement was made on

Thursday between Brighton's flying around.

Rupert Metcalf on the weekend

programme in the Premiership

day but another, Fabrizio Ravanelli, seems happy at last. On more than one occasion, the silver-haired striker's outbursts in the Italian media about his apparent desire to ply his trade anywhere hut Teesside have caused a rumpus at the

vanelli is singing a different tune. In an interview in the Torin newspaper La Stampa which was topped by the headline "Rayanelli: I'll win two cups and stay", the former Juventus striker said: "I feel lighter now. I have a four-year contract with jury worries today. Middlesbrough, where I am really at home." Manchester Unite one point in front

Ravanelli added that he was hopeful that his team would quality for Europe by winning a domestic trophy. I have re-ally missed the European Wednesdays but I could redis-

or relaxation. cover them, with Middles of the year at the heart of Unit Bryan Robson, the Middles brough." he said. "This club has ed's midfield as Roy Keane i hrough player-manager, has never won anything. If Ra-had his share of difficulties vanelli brings them a cup and with his foreign imports this sea-also the title of top scorer, it will be as if I had won another Eu-**Brighton travel with**

Nottingham Forest, also in the relegation zone, are still trying to strengthen their squad. Having already bought Pierre van Hooijdonk from Celtic, they are returning to Parkhead to try and borrow Brian O'Neil, who can play in midfield or defence, for the rest of the season. The striker Ian Moore, who arrived this week from Tranmere for £1m, will be on the bench today when Liverpool come to

the City Ground. The Antield side, in second place in the Premiership, are right back in the title race following Manchester United's unexpected defeat at Sunderland last weekend and their own stunning 4-3 win over Newcastle two days later. Liverpool have the houry of no major in-

Manchester United, now just one point in front, entertain Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford. Alex Ferguson, the home manager, welcomes back two players who have made rapid returns from injury. Nicky Butt is in line for his first start ed's midfield as Roy Keane is still suspended, while Paul Scholes is fit just over a month after a cartilage operation.

On Thursday, in a very relaxed interview granted to BBC Radio Five Live at the Cheltenham Festival, Ferguson insisted that his side have only one rival (Liverpool) for the title. That probably caused a few renewed confidence raised eyebrows at third-placed Arsenal, who are only three points behind United. The Gunners will surely be aiming ticularly unhappy with the chairman Bill Archer, after he sold for maximum points at The Dell today against a Southamp-ton side much depleted by susthe Goldstone Ground, but it is believed he will remain at club.

Liz Costa, spokeswoman for Fourth-placed Newcastle. the official supporters' club, nine points behind United with said: "We've won the war, but a game in hand, might also wish the treaty hasn't been signed yet and there are still a few builets to argue with Ferguson's assertion. The Magpies, who en-"Dick Knight would not have tertain Coventry, are still struggling to field a forward line. Les Ferdinand broke down 11 got involved if he hadn't had the full backing of the supporters and now we've all got to back whatever he does." Fans are minutes after coming on as a substitute at Liverpool on Wednesday, and his aggravated hamstring injury is likely to en-sure he misses out today and on Tuesday, when Newcastle go to hoping for a change in fortunes on the pitch to match events off it, as they face this season's other battle, against relegation from the Nationwide League. Monaco for the second leg of In December, Brighton were their Uefa Cup quarter-final.

pensions and injuries.

11 points adrift at the bottom "I had reservations about Les coming back as quick as he of the Third Division and efdid," Kenny Dalgish, Newcasfectively facing homelessness. Now only one point adrift, Liz. Costa is confident about their tle'a manager, said. "He thought he was fit and you can't fault prospects. "Watch us fly," she said. "My players for wanting to play, hut sometimes you've got to miss one match to catch the next four God, are we going to do things. Everybody is behind the team or five. The greatest healer is ing from pitch invasions to and we know we've got a futime and we will wait to see if he's ready [for Monaco]."



Australia's Wayne Riley, the defending champion, on his way to a 66 in Aroeria yesterday

Jonzon takes two-shot lead

While Seve Ballesteros missed his fourth consecutive cut, the Swede Michael Jonzon shot a seven-under-par 65 vesterday to lead by two strokes at 12 under on the second day of the Por-

tuguese Open.
Jonzon, 24, who almost failed to retain his European Tour card last year, changed his putter this week and picked up seven birdies - including putts of 30 feet and 20 feet - on his way to a two-round total of 132. The defending champion

Wayne Riley of Australia, had six birdies as he shot a 66 to stand two strokes back at 134. Also at 10 under was the firstround leader, Peter O'Malley of Anstralia, who had a 69. Jose Maria Olazabal, contin-

ning his remarkable comeback after an 18-month lay-off due to a foot ailment, returned a 67 to lie five shots off the lead on 137. Ballesteros, Europe's Ryder Cup captain, shot a 72 for a balfway total of one-over-par 145. "Things didn't go the right way,"

said the Spaniard, who hooked 11 shots but still howed out with off the tree-lined course three a seven-over-par aggregate of times. "I didn't manage to have a stable round and that's it."

Colin Montgomerie made a The misery continued for solid start in the Honda Classic Scotland's Sam Torrance, who at Coral Springs, Florida, shootimproved on his opening 81 by ing 68 Thursday to stand one

There is also concern for

the state of the courses on the

the European Tour which has

had to apologise again for the condition of one of them. Play-

ers have been told there will be

no fixed penalties imposed on

anybody wishing to withdraw

from next week's Turespaña

Seve Ballesteros and Jose

Maria Olazabal are among the

entrants at Maspalomas, where

seven of the greens have been

damaged by fertiliser scorching.

This comes only seven months after the British Masters at

Collingtree Park in Northamp-

ton became infamous for its dis-

eased greens.

Masters in Gran Canaria.

Worry for Woods

Tiger Woods will go looking for his first major in four weeks' time believing that the Augus-ta greens are dangerously close to being unfair. Woods, who has won four

events since turning professional last August, is now one of the favourites for the US

"I don't know whether the green speed is getting out of hand," he said yesterday. "The 11th was so fast last year (he played then as the US amateur champion) that people couldn't keep putts on the green, especially when the wind was hlowing from right to left. That's borderline on getting unfair."

had a preview of the new TPC at Heron Bay course, designed by their fellow PGA Tour player. Mark McCumber. "I was excited about coming here and playing. I thought it would be Thames Valley Tigers tonight.

> The wind did blow during the first round, and scores were higher than expected on this flat course with no out of bounds and almost no water. "There's more to this course than we first thought." Mont-gomerie said. "Suddenly the

blows," Janzen said.

shot off the pace in a group of

Stankowski shared the lead.

five players. Lee Janzen and Paul

Both Janzen and Stewart

a fair test, even if the wind

pins were tucked away and we were playing in tournament conditions. It was tough out there. "I don't mind it blowing, In fact, what that does is take away the 63s and 62s, but it

doesn't stop people from scoring 67s and 68s." A headwind certainly

stopped most people from picking up shots at the last. It produced an average score half a stroke above its par of four.

Sharks must be more ruthless

Basketbali

RICHARD TAYLOR

"Tough it out." That's the message from the Sheffield Sharks coach, Jim Brandon, to his players as they try to snatch the Budweiser League title from Exide London Towers and hold off the challenge from the Leopards, Peugeot Birmingham Bullets and Chester Jets.

After his team beat Towers 100-93 on Thursday night, in the first of four matches involving the leading quintet in a week, Brandon said: "You can have all the class and finesse going, hut they won't win you any-

thing.

-I've tried to convince my players all season that to win you have to play tough until the end, and against Towers they showed the message is getting

By cootrast, the Towers coach. Kevin Cadle, fears his nlavers are losing the plot. "I knew I could count on my previous teams having the determination to win. But I can't count on that with this crew." He reserved his most stinging criticism for the American Danny Lewis and his fellow guard Karl Brown, an England international. "The decisionmaking wasn't there against Sheffield and my guards are

competing with each other."
Cadle added. Alan Cunningham limped out of Thursday's game with a knee injury but is fit to face Birmingham tomorrow, although Towers have lost the American Joe Hooks for the rest of the season with a groin injury. Sharks travel to Chester tomorrow and are at home again to London on Wednesday. The leaders, Leopards, visit

> TODAY'S NUMBER

78,000

The number of pounds staked by an Essex woman on England to beat Wales in Cardiff today. An England victory will bring her £26,000 at odds of 1-3. The liford woman has already made £18,000 profit from her wagers on England's wins over Scotland and Ireland, but wisely resisted a punt on the defeat to

Gloves are on for the girls

Schools amateur boxing will soon be able to open its doors to female participation. Girls roots of the sport will be per-through the rules and regulamitted to try their lick from Octoher according to Chris Andrews, chairman of the National Schools' Boxing Association, which stages its jubilee Villa Leisure Centre on 22

"The recreational schemes we hold are very popular among they should be allowed to do girls and there is absolutely no so. reason why girls cannot partieipate as fully as boys. An concept which is certainly gain-drews said ing a professional profile in

waternational boxing commushould be allowed to box com= _tamweight.

petitively with effect from next

October. "Whether or not that will happen remains to be seen. Firstly there must be a good tions that apply. Secondly there must be a sufficient number of women who want to box.

"At the risk of being chauvinistic, there are a lot of peochampionships at the Aston ple in boxing who have some Villa Leisure Centre on 22 reservations. But if women want to box and medically there is no reason why they shouldn't box.

Women in ring combat is a The ABA a member of the America. Britain has two women world champions: Jane nity, has gone along with na- Couch at welterweight and tional requirement that girls Cheryl Robertson at ban-

Athletics
Michael Johnson, the first man to win gold medals in the 200 and 400 metres at the same Olympic Games, yesterday won the 1996 James E Sullivan Memorial Award.

Radminton TORUX ALL-ENGLAND CHARGE CHARGES (Birm-leghend Women's quarter-floaks Gong Zhichao (Ch) bt 5 Susanti (Indon) 11-4 11-7; Ra Nyung-man |S Kori bt C Martin (Den) 11-7 11-12 11-8.

Basketball ELECTICAGUE Elicalmetico ecu 84 Maccabi Tel Adv (5x) 68.

HOSE INTERNATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPION-SHIPS (Ballymoury, Co Anthra): Sectional bit reviend 124-138 (So olighe first): 1 Mur (ss.t to S Alen 18-29; G Robertson bt S Adamson 23-15; R Consey by J Balter 20-16; R McCalinch lost to 0 Corbit 11-22; A Macanal lost to R McCane 23-24; W Wood bt N Graham 29-11.

Boxing Crawford Ashley, the Leeds light-heavyweight champion, has been ordered by the Boxing Board of Control to defend his British tide against the leading contender, Mark Prince, of Tottenham, by 30 June, while the European Boxing. Union is also demanding that Ashley de-fends his newly-won European title against Wales' Commonwealth champ-

SPORTING DIGEST Paul Romaines, the Goucestershire firstteam coach, has resigned to become sports coach at Clifton College, Bristol.

England's Tournol de France match against Brazil has been switched to Paris because the stadium in Lens, being re-built for the 1998 Cup finals, will not be ready on time. England will now meet the reigning world champions at Parc des Princes on 10 June. Their other two games in the four-learn tournament are against Italy in Names on 4 June and gainst France in Montpellier on 7 June. Mark Kennedy of Liverpool and the Tot-tenhern peir Seeve Carr and Neale Fenn-have been withdrawn from the Repub-lic of Ireland's B team for the repre-sentative match with the National League of Ireland select at Toke Park, Dubble on Mondre

Dublin, on Monday. Transmere Rowers have offered around £1.00,000 for Liverpool's former Wrexham striker Lee Jones, who is also want-

On by Ipswich.

Shoreham, the Sussex County League club, have signed the former Republic of Ireland striker, John Byrne.

THANSFERS: Devor White (forward) Wetfors to Note County Sharen Cannington Irrediction) West Brometch to Note County (normal feet).

LOAN TRANSFERS: Devid Hamon forward Lyron Orient to Crastefact. Canig Madeing (Covero) Bradiend Coy to Scarborough: Paul Mahom (forward) Totamiran to Bravitotic Craig Ansastrong (defender) Notingham Forest to Wetford.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESILTS: Italianat Langue Pransier Divisions Bishop Auditard 4 tancauser 2. Laugue Gug fourth-round register Question O Columb Bay 2. Lefe Langue Seater Divisions: Weenhoe 1. Coller Row 4 Rombot 3. Januaria Baston Counties Langue Premier Division: Hastpart O Topide 2. Proteins Lengue Premier Division: Hastpart O Towni. Victory Shield Under-15 Internationals: Northern related 0 England 3 (at Hedrassford Towni. Victory Shield Under-15 Internationals: Northern related 0 England 3 (at Window Park, Bellisco, France Langue: Romea 0 Morston 3 Legaried 35, 47, Colins 671, Spanish Cup quarter-dinate second legt Ripo Vallector 1 Real Bero 2 (Bellis win 4-1 on aggregate). Calta Vrijo 1 Risong Santander 0 (Cette win 3-1 on aggregate).

HONDA CLASSIC (Coral Springs, Fie) Leading first-round scores (U.S. undess stated): 87 L. James, P. Stanlowski, S. B. C. Mongomen (GB), B. R. Brown, G. Kinft, P. Stanser, S. Appleby (Aus.), 89 D. Mastra, M. Buckly, B. Lecthe, J. Huzzon, P. H. Horgian, P. Bischmer, G. Borce, R. Black, D. Legeri, R. Riserbor (Med.), 70 T. Simpson, T. Byunn, B. Langer (Gerl., I. Woossam (GB), M. McCumber, A. Magge, C. Beck, N. Ozals (Legeri), R. Germer, D. Mast, Selected; T.S. S. Lyfe (GB), KENYAM OPEN (Blothadge) Laading second-round somet (GB or it uniness stated): 133 S. Burnett GT 65, 134 M. Málar 67 BT; M. Scholz, EA.) 69, 66, 135 M. Reals (D) 69, 56, 135 P. Harneton, B5.71; H. Benstorn (Next) 69, 67; S. Concis, S. Burnett GT, B. S. Concis, S. S. Concis,

Rugby League Rugby Union

for next Saturday, has useen postported as Saints have several players on World Cup Sevens duty in Hong Kong. SUPER 12 SEIGES (Sydney): New S Skiling

MEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIER (Auslia Lampor):
11/12th place: Ireland 1 Belans. 2. 9/10th: South
Africa 3 Switzerland 2. 7/8th Belgium 1 Argemens
2. 5/6ths. Canada 3 Madayse 1.
HOME QUAD YOUTH TOURSUAMENT (Militon
Keynes): Under 18: Scotland 2. Ireland 2. England 6 Wales O, Under 18: England 11 Wales 1;
Ireland 3 Scotland 1.

ice hockey NHL: Mortreat 3 Boston C; Florida 5 Vancouver 4; New Jessey 5 Hentlord C; Philadelphia S Ed-monton 4 jott; NY Islanders 3 7ampa Bay C; St Louis 4 Los Angeles 2.

ALISTRALIAN RUGEY LEVOLE S. George 14 Manh-Warringan 18. AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Adelande Rams 10 Hunder Marrings 8.

Northampton will play their rearranged Courage League National League One match at Harlequins on Wednesday 30 April. The match, originally scheduled for next Saturday, has been postponed

phend (Fr) 351pts, 2 J Strobl 333; 3 Schrifters
256; 4 H Maer (Aur. 230; 5 Gredne 118 Overall standings: 1 Alphand 1,130pts; 2 Alamost
1,024; 3 Gredne 990; 4 J Sword 681; 5 H Krauss;
Aur. 72; WoMARIN Super-0; 1 K Schriger Gerl
1 mm 15,73 set; 2 H Gerg (Sen 1;18-53; 3 M
Erd (Ger. 117,701; 4 H Marten (Mor. 1:17 07;
5 F Mosnada Fr; 1:17,28. Final Super-6;
standings: 1 Gerg 490pts; 2 Securger 474; 3 P Wiber (Sen) 490; 4 H Nostrer (ft) 355; 5 Erd
248. Final downshill standings: 1 R Corch (Aur.
463pts; 2 H Lutringsen (Sen) 466; 3 W Zisenstans (Rus.) 423; 4 Wiberg 412; 5 Securger 405;
Oversid standings: 1 Whole; 1,815; 2 Securger
1,264; 3 Gerg 1,100; 4 0 Compagnon (ft) 627;
5 Kosner 782, Wibmeris (Nation Cup: 1 Germany 4,057; 2 Austra 3,219; 3 Ealy 3,004; 4
Sentzerland 2,379; 5 Sweden 2,367.

Snooker THAILAND OPEN (Bangkok): Quarter-Gnatic N Bond (Eng) bt Q Hann (Aus) 5-0

RÉMAULT AUSTRIAN OPEN (Linz) Men's quas-tur-dinèse Jancher (Non (Pol) Dr Gregory (Cr) 15-12 15-1 5-15 8-15 15-6; J. Boneta (II) bit G Ryding (Can) 11-15-15-11 15-9 15-13; D. Jen-son (Aus) Lin 15-15-11 15-9 15-13; D. Jen-Son (Aus) Lin 15-15-11 15-15-14 15-15-15-18 Eyes (Aus) in C Rowerini Aus: with Memories representations. In Vicenti Aus I in Lind-Memories representations. In Vicenti Aus I in Lind-Memories representations. In Vicenti Aus I in Lind-

SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Csalca, Jopan) Shith day jot 15): Opnishila laton 4, ket 2; bit Toitsunede (4-2): Danishio (3-3) bit Minatoluji (4-2): Rido (3-3) bit Gejoro (2-4): Departs (5-1) bit Acquerta (4-2): Horistati (1-3-2") bit Misupisto (1-5): Tochnocasa (4-2) bit Hamarochima (3-3): Villance and (4-3) bit Yamato (2-4); Asohhrubis

(3-3) bt Krukachdole (3-3). Kritonanana (4-2) bt Shiushma (2-4): Garve (3-3), for Minama (2-4): Garve (3-3), for Minama (3-5). It Tamalasus (2-4): the David (2-5) bt Notonews (3-5). Totalasuma (1-5): Totalasuma (3-3) bt Totalasuma (1-5) thistopen (3-3) bt Notonews (3-3) bt Notonews (3-3) at Notonews (3-3) at Notonews (3-3) at Notonews (3-3); Krotonews (3-3) at Notonews (3-5): Totalasuma (3-1): Totalasuma (3-5): Alexandra (3-5): Missandra (3-5): Alexandra (3-5):

The United States, the reigning Fed Cup champions, will have to beat Japan in a play-off this summer to remain in the top flight of the women's team event. A depleted US team lost to the Netherlands in the opening round early this month and following yesterday's draw month and following yesterday's draw in Luxembourg they will be relegated to Group II unless they bear Japan in the play-off round from 12 to 13 July. The United States have home advantage. COPENHAGEN MEN'S OPEN Singles, second round; I. Bugsmuller Ger) to K Myett (SA) 3-6-6-3-6-6-4; M Domm (C2 Rep) to N Marques Port 6-3-3-6-6-3 G Rocue (Fr) to D Proposition; For 6-4; T Carbonel (Sp) to K Carben Den't 7-6-7-6.

HENS CHARMONIAS CIDE (Institute Medic Code) F Formation (Den) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-3 7-6.
MEN'S CHAMPIONS CUP (Institut Webs, Cabin)
Sessent round: B Uthinach (Cz Repu bt P Somons (US) 7-6 7-5: // Stark (US) to G Ivancevo.
(Cros) 7-56 3: C Woodwiff (US) bt T Enweld (Somons6-4 6-4; M Resset (Swill bt H Dreehmar (Ger)
3-6-3 7-6: A Berasaterpo Sop bt N Nubb (Swel6-3 6-7 6-3: C Pooline 17th bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-4
6-4; B Black (Zim) bt A O'Bren (US) 3-6 6-1
7-6: F Cavet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-4 4-6
7-6.

7-6. WOMEN'S EVERT CUP (Indian Wells, Calif): Singles, semi-lingl: 1 Spries (Rom) bt A Sanchez Vicano (Sp) 4-6 6-3 6-3.



On the City beat

Frank Clark talks football and music with Glenn Moore, page 30

SATURDAY 15 MARCH 1997 . THE INDEPENDENT

Walking a tightrope Eric Hughes tells Dave Hadfield about

his new life at Wigan, page 29

FIVE NATIONS FINALE: Wales and England search for respectability at the Arms Park's last international before demolition

Final hymn at Cardiff cathedral

reports from Cardiff

The way things are going, this summer's Lions team can forget about Ilying husiness class to South Africa and negotiate a block booking on an air am-hulance instead. So many obvious tour candidates are to be found among the walking wounded of the Five Nations that Fran Cotton's plan to send 35 fit players to take oo the might of the Springboks looks optimistic in the extreme.

Yesterday. Lawrence Dallaglio emerged as the latest exhibit in a week-long gallery of aches, pains and cry-offs. Eng-land's blind-side flanker, oot only a stone-cold certainty for a Lions place hut a dark horse for the captaincy, went down with flu-type symptoms here yesterday and was given only a 50-50 chance of facing the Welsh at the Arms Park this afternoon. Chris Sheasby, his Wasps team-mate, was called in as cover but if Dallaglio fails a check-up this morning. Ben Clarke will play.

Today's championship finale has been so badly devalued by enforced absences - one very influential third of what might

have been an extremely dangerous Welsh side will oot even be at the starting post and three other players are carrying injuries - that an England victory, rare enough on the far side of the Severn, would carry rather less kndos than usual. Indeed, defeat would leave Jack Rowell with the worst Five Nations record of his stewardship

Results: 19 January: Ireland 15 France 32; Scotland 19 Wales 34. 1 February: England 41 Scotland 13: Wales 25 Ireland 26. 15 February: tretand 6 England 46; France 27 Wales 22.

and more egg oo his face than a clown at Billy Smart's Circus. Which is how a cynic might describe the sight of Dave Alred.

widely acknowledged to be the world's leading kicking specialist, putting Mike Catt, Rob Andrew and Tim Stimpson through their paces at Sophia

WALES V ENGLAND

at Cardiff Arms Park Richmond 13 W Carting. Llanelli 12 P de Glanv Beth, capt Bridgend 11 T Underwood

...Bristol Richmond 8 T Rodbe Northampton ments: 16 J Govert (Bath), 17 R Newczyte), 18 A Company (Maccall, pole: (Richmond), 20 D Garferth r), 21 P Greening (Goucester),

Gardens yesterday. Alred has not been involved with the England squad for months; he has a contract with Newcastle, where Andrew, his favourite studeot, is director of rugby, but spends the rest of his time working with Super 12 sides in Australia or giving one-off tutorials to whoever seeks his expertise.

Andrew's bizarre recall to international duty this week as a direct result of Paul Grayson's hip injury, which left Rowell fretting about Englaod's ex-posed position on the kicking front, paved the way for Alred's sudden reappearance. "Don't Rugby Foothall Union," he said. "I just do as I'm asked and on this occasion, it was Rob who asked me down."

For whatever obscure reason - a reason that appears to emharrass Rowell, who this week directed all inquiries on the subject to Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical director - England appear either unable or unwilling to resolve the Alred issue. As an exercise in selfflagellation, it takes the proverhial hiscuit. Andrew swears by the man and that should be rec-

ommendation ecough,
Rutherford revealed that England were hoping to finance a full-time kicking coach from next season, adding: "What Dave needs to do is tell us whether or not he wants to be a full-timer with the national squad. It is my view that I wouldn't like to see an England coach helping players from other countries improve their skills."

In turn, Alred pointed ont that as he had been ignored by England he had been forced to make a living for himself else-

It is perfectly possible that England's chances of victory will depend on how much shine Aired managed to apply to Catt's cobweb-infested kicking technique in the space of 24 hours. The Bath outside-half proved himself a more than adequate marksman during the three-match programme of



certainly, goalkicking was the last thing that got him dropped - hut the emotional weight of today's contest would test the nerve of an automatoo, never mind a man who aims for goal only when he pulls on an Eng-

The Weish may look worryingly toothless without such obvious match-winners as Ieuan Evans, Scott Gibbs and Arwel Thomas, but England are field-ing an untried half-back pairing of Catt and Austin Healey and more pertinently, the visitors' defeat by France a formight ago may well have damaged the fragile psychology of the side more than Rowell was prepared to admit during the huild-

up to this one. While both Rowell and Phil de Glanville, his captain, have gone to inordinate lengths to extol the dynamic virtues of England's opening hour against the French, both men privately accept that an unacceptable

degree of naïvete was also evident at Twickenham that day. "We played so fast in the first 60 minutes that an occasional hreather might have been useful," said Rowell, a firm indication that the forwards may have more of a say in deter-

mining tactics this afternoon. If Jason Leonard's tight five are given a free hand to do things their way against a Welsh pack that does not quite measure up they will miss every ounce of Colin Charvis' muscular pres-ence on the open-side flank – England should strong-arm their way to a Triple Crown. "We would still have under-achieved because we set out in pursuit of a Grand Slam, but the important thing is to come out with some-

thing, De Glanville said. But more than half the England side have yet to experience the oppressive atmosphere of Cardiff on international day and they will he fearful of the occasion; especially this occa-

Arms Park before the demolition crews move in. With Jonathan Davies grinning imp ishly at outside-half, Neil Jenk ins ready to kick goals from everywhere and 50,000 Welshmen endeavouring to invoke the spirit of past glories, it will be hard not to be washed away by a spring tide of sentiment.

We've heard a good deal:

about England's wider, more expansive style but I'm not con-vinced that they are wholly comfortable with it, or even that they are completely convinced by it as a way forward," Kevin Bowring, the Welsh coach, said. "We feel we deserve better

from this championship than to finish with one win from four matches and while it's been a difficult week on the selection front, we're confident of finishing with a win, just as we did

last year against France." If it comes to pass, one last piece of folklore will have been written in the annals of a wonderful rugby cathedral.

in Monday's 20-page sports section

We've been through the full range of ups and downs. We started out with all due optimism, watched the pre-Christmas nternationals and thought Bloody hell, this doesn't look too good' and then cheered up during the course of the Five Nations, which has been excellent?

Fran Cotton, manger of the Lions, speaks to Chris Hewett in the Monday Interview

QPR move for Ripley could set up Sinclair sale

eferee: J Dume (France).

M Voyle ...

ALAN NIXON

Stuart Ripley, the Blackburn Rovers winger, is lined up for a flm move to Queen's Park Rangers this week - paving the way for the sale of Trevor Sin-

Ripley has been stuck in Rovers' reserves after a comeback from injury, and the QPR assistant manager. Bruce Rioch, watched him play in a midweek

they are more interested in a loan deal. Rangers can cash in oo Sinclair by selling him to Leeds for £6m - with an imminent deal possible if they can sort out a replacement.

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, has rubbished press reports emanating from Italy that he has launched a £5m bid for Milan's Creatian midfielder, Zvonimir Boban. "We have not approached Milan and we have

Ripley has also been chased by West Bromwich Albion, but either," Ferguson said.

The Aston Villa forward Tommy Johnsoo is still pondering a move back to Derby County, who have agreed a £2m fee - which will rise if they stay op - for their former player. Johnson will make his deci-sion on Monday.

Derby's two new signings from Costa Rica may not be able to play for them until next season because of work permit difficulties. Derby paid about £1m for the striker Paulo Cesar

Waochope and the midfielder Mauricio Solis, who have hoth signed three-year contracts. Wanchope scored a hat-trick for Costa Rica in a friendly against

Camerooo last Sunday. Blackburn's caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, yesterday confirmed that several of his club's players were asked to leave a VIP lounge at the Chel-tenham Festival this week. There have been media allegations of players becoming involved in alcohol-influenced escapades during a day out at the races.

VIP lounge," Parkes admitted. The players were asked to leave and they did, watching the rest of the racing from outside.

I believe it couldn't have been that bad, for they weren't asked to leave the course. That's all we've got to say. We want to nip it in the hud and concentrate

Everton have opened talks to leave Goodison Park for a purpose-built stadium in Kirkby but the move has sparked protests from some supporters. the club's traditional home. Everton's chairman, Peter Johnson, confirmed that plans for a proposed new home for the cluh on the site of Kirkby

to reveal a T-shirt emblazoned

with Maori sovereignty slogans.

Nearby building workers
grabbed the man, who was ar-

rested and was due to appear in

court today to face criminal

damage charges. Police did not

release his name but said he was

a local student. A Maori sepa-

pendent Maori state

claimed responsibil-

ity for the attack.

m about 1850.

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^{on} Eurostar,

you can enjoy Municipal Golf Course were being prepared. "We are prepara relaxing game ing artists' impressions and will publish a coupon asking for hack on the football." people's votes on it." he said. of FizzBuzz-Chris Whyte, the 35-year-old former Arsenal, Leeds and Chariton defender, has joined Oxford United for the rest of

Don't bother lining out at passport control or scrumming for a taxi at

Paris airport. Sit in a warm, spacious Eurostar, Read a romantic novel, discuss theology, perhaps even play a relaxing game of scrabble. What could be more civilised? Oh, and in the unlikely event that you wish to

indulge in en alcoholic of Paris. No wonder

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3247. Salurday 15 March By Mass



Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Tree, maybe among last to be logged [7] Turned over, conscious

11 Dressing activity introducing mini lines (7) 12 Progressively reduces. cuts back - getting too

reduced [7] 13 Inferior articles from Europe (5)

14 A safe opener, you might say (q) 16 to's enough to waken the

dead! (9) 19 English firm outwardly spread (5)

21 Imports goods (7) Rotten hum drifting around in dwelling [7]

24 Talk incoherently with only first drop in Social Club? (7) 25 Yours truly in speech

contemplated old trophy 26 It could lead to scrapping EEC, rebelling in disunited way (12)

DOWN

Effect of a protein cure? 1 Reeled off, deprived of bottle (7)

Seeing Italy in a trap is increasingly old-fashioned (7)

Drill, very keen in fit teacher (9) Files South during

strikes (5) Plugging tee prior to

Source of figures like 'paper tiger'' (7) Duped, accepting Eng-lish coins proving hase

10 Editor involved with Tass in paper (12) 15 Delayed one with notes

about Cockney poet (4-17 Stalking us, bear made short charge (7) 18 Description of a gig (7)

19 Designation, right, of promoted member of workforce? (7) 20 Edited manual on English retired academics

22 Vault's short of new dec-The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary and Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O., Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Saturday Crossword of P.D. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Saturday Crossword of P.D. Box 4018.

da Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Michael Puckett, London Wi-4; K Macintyre, London SW4; David Gould, Worsley; Alwyn Smith, Aruside: M Goss, Chichestee.

Protester damages America's Cup

Sailing

The America's Cup, the oldest trophy in international sport and the most coveted prize in sailing, was badly damaged vester-day in a political protest by a 27-year-old Maori man in Auckland, New Zealand.

The 3ft high silver cup was said to be "virtually destroyed" and would have to be rebuilt following the attack at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

The attacker, dressed in a suit, shirt and tie, had asked to see the trophy, which is displayed in a showcase. There was no security guard in the room as he suddenly pulled

short-handled

slung over his shoulder and attacked the trophy case. The man repeatedly smashed at the armoured glass casing until it hroke open. He tried but failed to remove the trophy from the broken cabinet and



Alan Bond won it for Australia. Team New Zealand became only the second foreign crew in 144 years to take the America's Cup away from the United States when they won the trophy two years ago. Auckland, which boasts is has more yachts per capita than any city in the world, will host then tore off his jacket and shirt the next America's Cup in 1999.

المكذا من الأصل



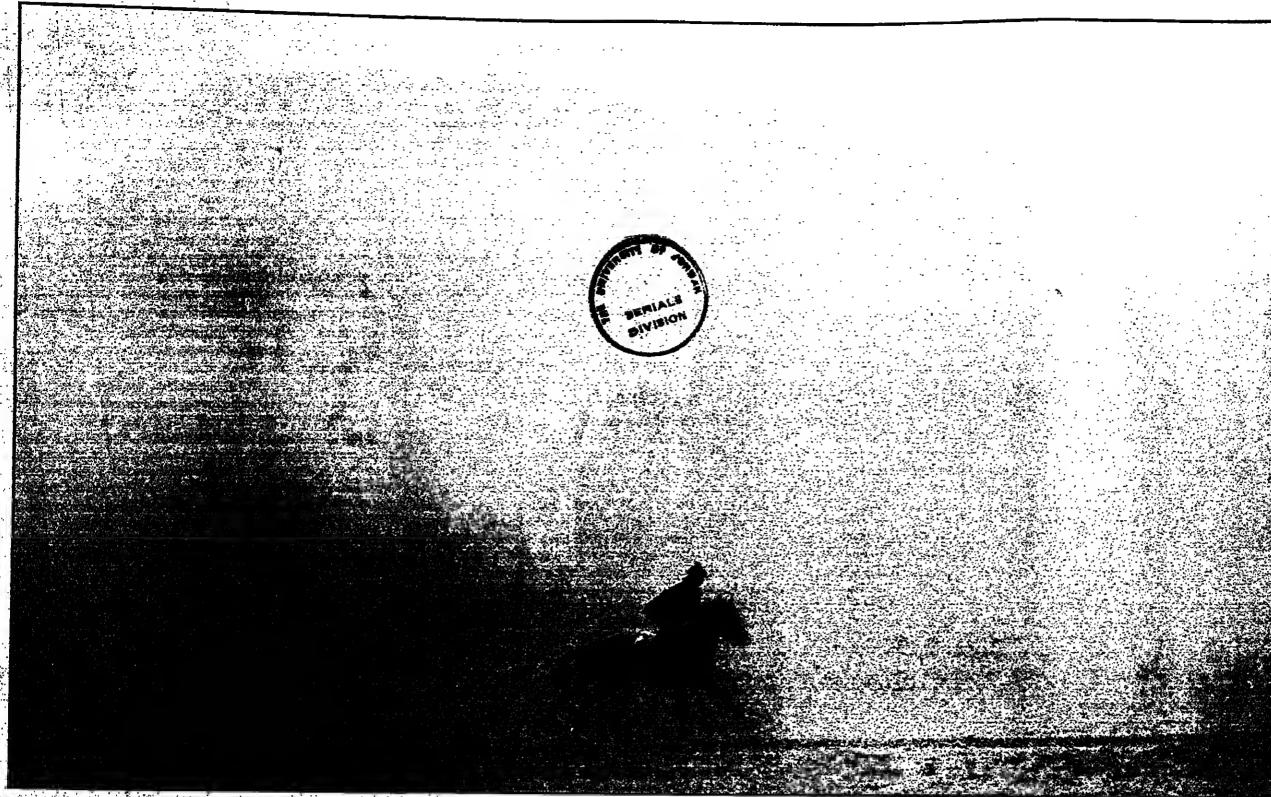


IMAGE OF THE WEEK

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-23

Dawn, and Jockey John Jenkins takes his mount on a training gallop in the mists near Royston, Hertfordshire, before they headed off to the excitement and glamour of the annual race meeting at Cheltenham. Photograph by Brian Harris using a 105mm lens, 2000th of a second at f16. Film: 1,000 ASA. To order a print of this picture – it costs £14 – phone 0171-293 2534

thelongwee



Eileen Harrild: Thirsday's been a day we've been dreading. It's like one more hurdle we're going to have to go over and it's been almost building up and up since the turn of the New Year. We've had a lot of hurdles to cross this year and now that we're nearing the anniversary, I know it's going to be an extremely difficult day for everybody. You know, we are encouraged because of the amount of concern and love and warmth we've had from the whole community and from everybody.

James Nanghrie: Mary, there must be a sense of impending relief that that moment will have

Mary Blake: I think we will be pleased when we get 13 March, Thursday, over, and then, I think we'll try and focus on the future and just try to lead our lives as normally as we can.

James Naughtie: Elleen, have you found yourself more resilient than you had expected?

Elleen Harrild: I think we all have in a strange sort of way. It's amazing where you get the strength to come through something as horrendous as this. I mean, at the beginning of 1996 if anyone had said to myself or to Mary or to anybody who had heen involved directly with this, what kind of year we were going to have, we would never have believed it... I think everyone's shown great courage and strength and dignite.

Mary Blake I think it feels quite unreal. We talk about it and I feel it's as if it hasn't happened to us and it does surprise me sometimes, when we do talk about it and it's just, as I said, so unreal.

James Naughtie: You've both coped with it while you've been recovering from your injuries. What about the children who were nearby, who were aware of the horror of the event?

Eilern Harrild: Again, I think they individually coped very differently. My daughter was in a class-room very close to the gym and there was also a classroom, as you know, that the gunman fired upon. And I think some of these children are still having a very difficult time actually, and in their own way they are having to cope with it with the help of their parents and the school and so on. I think that's one of the things that's very important, that

WORDS OF THE WEEK



Two teachers injured when Thomas Hamilton ran amok in Dunblane shared their painful memories with Radio 4 presenter James Naughtie on the *Today* programme. Eileen Harrild (far left) is a PE teacher at the school and Mary Blake a teaching assistant

we mustn't forget the people who were injured and the long-term effect that that's going to have on them. Some of the children were very badly injured and they're going to have to live with this. It's also just hitting home now because at the time Mary and I and the surviving children were just so grateful to be here. Now we're thinking, and we're having to cope every day with the realities of that event, and the children in particular are going to have to cope with the reality of that for the rest of their lives — and that's difficult.

James Naughtie: One of the things that strikes me is that there must be a tension between sometimes wanting to simply avoid the subject and not talk about it, but on the other hand, never wanting to feel as if you're letting go of your feelings.

Mary Blake: Eileen and I, we talk often about what happened on the day – in fact, I think every time we meet. I've said before, I am very grateful that – I know this sounds dreadful – but that there was someone else there. I find it's very comforting to have Eileen, just to have a chat, and I know that she feels exactly the same ...

Eileen Harrid: Absolutely, it's very important, as Mary said. There's only two of us who actually knew, you know, what we experienced that morning, and even within the family as much as, you know, our families and the families of those directly involved

try to understand, it's very comforting for both Mary and I because, you know, the two of us survived, and we know exactly what we were going through that morning.

James Nanghtie: Sometimes the town must have been under almost intolerable pressure. I don't mean from the inquisitiveness of outsiders, but just internally; the strength of the feeling, the depth of the trauma.

Elleen Harrild: I think we all need to stand hack from it for a little while, otherwise tensions can arise, and we don't want that sort of thing.

Mary Blake: I find it quite difficult going down to the village. You know, they ask how I am, how I'm feeling, and some days if you're having a really had day you don't really want to say I'm feeling dreadful. You just say, "I'm fine", and really there are days when we're not fine.

James Nanghtie: People talk about good coming from bad, meaning that we shouldn't forget about the bad, but there are things that you can look forward to. What do you hope for? What do you look forward to?

Eileen Harvild: I'm looking forward to trying to have some more normality in my life because he past year there has really not been normality. And to getting a physical as well as a spiritual and emotional recovery from this – it would be very helpful for us in Dunblane. And normality would return if we could feel that we had this [gun] ban, and that this sort of thing could never happen again. That was always the bottom line for us – that nothing like this could ever happen again with legal guns. I would like to see that we learn from this and we are more vigilant in what's happening to our children and what sort of toys they are playing with. You know, you wouldn't see a toy gun in Dunblane now, never. I think we have to be vigilant of what our children are watching on television, what kind of videos we are allowing the children to view, because they absorb the violence into their system. Mary and I know what it feels like when a bullet hits you, and it's not what they show on these

James Naughtie: You've both talked about this anniversary as something that needs to be marked properly with dignity, but you've also talked about, in some sense, moving on after it is passed. How is it that you can start to keep the memory of the children with you, but at the same time somehow begin to distance yourself from the events of the past year?

Eiteen Harrild: That's a very difficult question to answer. I think part of the way Mary and I coped was by distancing ourselves from it from the very beginning, because we couldn't take on just how awful it was anyway at the very beginning. The first anniversary. I think, is an extremely important landmark for everybody in the whole community of Dunblane. We're hoping that we'll be able to pick up the pieces of our lives, move forward, never forgetting.

James Naughtie: Do you want people to light condies on Thursday?

Mary Blake: Oh yes, I think that's very important. It'll be nice to know that everybody is thinking about us and the families.

Eileen Harrild: And the children, and that their light shines on and that although they are no longer here they are still loved and there's a little piece of them in all our hearts.

INSIDE

John Walsh meets Helen Storey

... and finds she wants to do things a dreamlike way page 3

The history of slavery put to jazz

Wynton Marsalis's captivating 'Blood on the Fields' **page 5**

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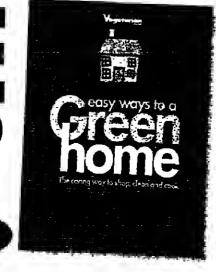


FREE GREENHOUSE WITH THIS MONTH'S VEGETARIAN GOOD FOOD

BBC Vegetarian Good Food magazine doesn't just contain great recipe ideas for when you don't want to eat meat. This month's issue comes with a free 24 page supplement — 'Easy Ways to a Green Home'. Find out how to save energy and money in the home, how to shop with a conscience, and

which appliances are greenest for your kitchen.

On sale now in your local environment



Advance to Marlborough Street

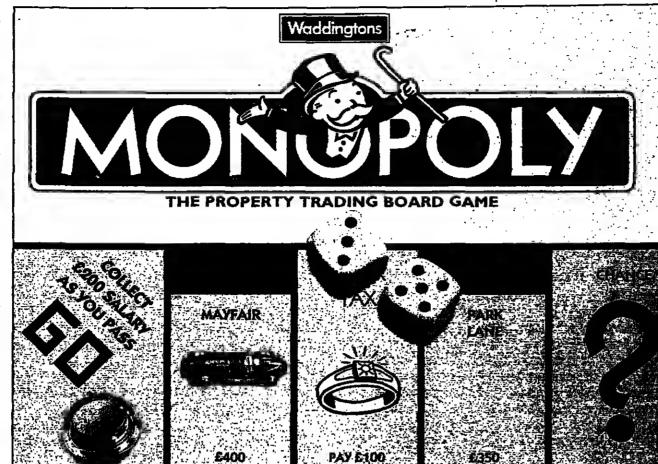
William Hartston explains how to thrash the children at Monopoly.

o game can be quite so popular, or unappreciated. as Monopoly. After more than 60 years in the shops, it is still the best-selling board shops, it is still the best-selling board game of all, yet in the opinion of Mike Grabsky. "99 per cent of people don't know how to play Monopoly". Many of us think we know how to play, of course, but we have probably never read the rules carefully enough to appreciate the level of strategy that the game allows. In Mr Grahsky's opinion, luck plays a far smaller part than most players realise. "It's a more skilful game than backgammon," he says. There are two backgammon," he says. There are two keys to good Monopoly: one is to comprehend the basic economics of the game; the other is to understand why it was called Monopoly in the first place.

Actually, it wasn't called Monopoly in

the first place. It started life as "The Landlord's Game". invented by Elizabeth Magie and patented in 1903. She saw it, however, as not so much a game as a moral lesson against the social evils of property speculators and unscrupulous landkirds. Despite her high ideas and Quaker beliefs, however, it gained a good deal of popularity and hegan to be played in university circles around Maryland and Pennsylvania, Over the next 30 years, the rules were gradually refined and improved. In the 1920s, it began to be known under the name "Monopoly" (despite Ms Magic's disapproval). Finally, in 1933, an unemployed engineer named Charles Darrow, who is generally credited as the game's inventor, came across it, and saw its potential. He redesigned the board, borrowed the trinkets from his wife's charm bracelet to serve as the pieces, and started marketing it properly. Omitting to mention that the game was not bis own invention, he submitted it to Parker Games - who identified 52 serious faults and turned it down. Two years later, however, when Darrow had sold 5,000 copies by his own efforts, they changed their mind. By autumn 1935, Parker were making 20,000 games a week to keep up with demand,
The name of "Monopoly", however,

comes from an elemnt in good strategy that few players appreciate. The complete set contains 32 green houses, and once those have been used up, no more properties may be developed until they are converted to hotels, or sold hack to the bank. So one consequence is that if, for example, a player builds four houses on each of the three properties of two colour sets, it will use up 24 houses in all, leaving only eight to be fought over by the other players. You can take a large step towards bankrupting the other players by gaining a virtual monopoly over the housing market. That is why it is generally a mistake to build hotels. Four the orange set a good bet: because of the houses earn less rent, but considerably "Go to Jail" square, and the Chance and each game starts with about half-an-hour houses earn less rent, but considerably



Landing on a hetal on Vine Street will cost you £1809 – but a better player might have stopped the building at four houses.

to calculate your return on investment properly. Greedy amateurs may go for economics argue against it. The pair of on one of the oranges. properties cost £750, with development costs of £200 a house. So to build one house on each involves a total outlay of £1150, which will provide a total rent-roll of £375. By contrast, the orange set, Marlborough Street, Vine Street and Bow Street, cost a total of £560. For another £500 you can put two houses on two of the properties and one on the other, giving a total rent roll of £510.

Mayfair and Park Lane only begin to repay the investment when developed to the three-house level, and that is rarely possible early in the game. Only when the you really want to do things precisely.) supply has been inflated by sufficient bonuses of £200 for passing Go is there sufficient money in the economy to allow the development of the high-price sites.

There's another thing too that makes "Go to Jail" square, and the Chance and

Apart from monopolising the houses, same effect, the Jail square is the one the most important aspect of strategy is most frequently occupied. And since the majority of dice throws are in the range from five to nine, when anyone gets out the Mayfair and Park Lane set, but the of Jail he has a good chance of landing

> This chance may be calculated precisely, as may other statistical aspects of the game. For example, since the average dice throw is seven, each player has a one-in-seven chance of landing on any individual square on each circuit of the board. Your expected income is therefore approximately one seventh of your total rent roll per circuit, per player. (This calculation is actually made a little more complex by the rule about having an extra turn when you throw a double, but even that may be taken into acount if

> The main skill at the game, however, comes not in making such calculations, but in the negotiating skills needed to tempt the other players into doing the deals that enable you to form sets in the

the board accumulating properties, but there comes a moment when everyone realises that progress can only be made or one player can only be stopped - if some deals are done. Then play stops and you all start haggling. This is the vital moment and, according to Mr Grabsky, "it can get slightly nasty." It's vital not to be excluded from the deals, so sometimes you have to resort to threats. "If you don't sell me Trafalgar Square, I'll give Vine Street to Fred, and then you'll stand no chance," But the key to it all is to appear believable and trustworthy while having the mentality of a city trader. Finally, here's another rule you've

never read properly: "If a limited number of bouses or hotels is left and two or more players wish to buy more than the Bank has, the Banker auctions them off to the highest bidder, starting at the lowest price shown on the relevant title deeds." Under such circumstances, houses on Mayfair and Park Lane may become a very attractive proposition. But nobody ever wins with the green set. Now go back to your constituencies and

Games people play Brian Sewell teaches Pandora Melly the joy of chess

and journalist.

I can remember having lots of Civil War soldiers. You lined them up and conducted fantasy manocuvres like any child. I was very normal in that sense, except that I never played ordinary children's games; I hated football and cricket, and wouldn't go near a rugby ball. I remember going to pre-school and being encouraged to box. I was five or six, I think.

There was a period when I played a lot of snooker - in its cruder form where you can have fun based on pure fluke shots. Ordinary snooker is rather boring unless you have some skill. I made a couple of attempts to become a tennis player but without any lasting result, and I've had a stab at golf - my father is a golfer, my mother and stepfather too.

The three things that really grip me are a film, a book or a conversation, whereas playing games or taking part in organised activities my mind wanders. I suppose you could say there's a

Christopher Silvester, 37, writer lot of gamesmanship in the art of conversation, and certainly in seduction, where the rules are constantly changing. Of course I'm a bit of a fraud really, because I like playing with other people's emotions, but I'm not very keen when they do it to me.

I'm one of those people who always have to have rules explained to them over and over again. Poker is the only game I actually like. There are many variants: Texas Hold 'em, which is much favoured by professional gamblers, Seven Card Stud and Ho-Lo. I bad my first game of bridge recently and did quite well. I can see myself becoming a bridge player in time; it's the sort of thing my mother encourages me to do.

I wish I'd been forced to learn ballroom dancing.

Get happy with Victor Silvester and his Orchestra "In a Dancing Mood" and other titles on CD. £2.49 to £11.99 from Virgin Record Shops (0500-120012 for stores nationwide).

Don't junk it ... use it

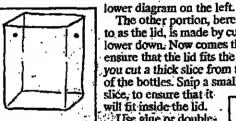
From washing machine to pencil case



All you need for this elegant and original pencil case is two identical fabric softener bottles and a nice piece of string of the type you find on the handles of shopping bags provided by the better stores m Knightsbridge.

Some people, when shown this design, suggest that one might equally make it from shampoo bottles, but that, of course, overlooks the fact that you have already used all your empty shampoo bottles to make computer mouse holders.

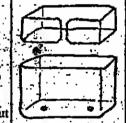
Anyway, you start by cutting off the top of one container to leave the piece that will serve as the body of the pencil case. Make two boles in it as shown in the



The other portion, bereinafter to be referred to as the lid, is made by cutting the other bottle lower down. Now comes the clever bit. To ensure that the lid fits the container snugly, you cut a thick slice from the remainder of one of the bottles. Snip a small section out of the slice, to ensure that it will fit inside the lid.

Use give or doublesided sticky-tape to fix this strip inside the lid, with half its width

protruding. The sticking out bit then his into the top of the case to hold the hid on. By making two holes in the lid, you may also attach lid to case by threading your piece of decorative string through the holes, forming a carrying handle, while also holding the case sbut and ensuring that you don't lose the lid.



Do you have any good ideas for recycling objects that would otherwise be thrown away? If so we should be delighted to hear from you at: Don't Junk It, The Games Page, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. We hope to recycle the best ideas at a later date; in this column.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

The games page is edited by William Hartston

New Game of the Week

Around 1970, in a TV series called Me Mamny, Milo O'Shea enjoyed a game of "Pope-opoly" with ecclesiatiscal figurines moved around a board, and cards hearing such messages as: "Go to Hell. Go directly to Hell. Do not pass through purgatory. Do not collect 200 plenary indulgences."

Sadly Pope-opoly was never marketed. But "Seven Steps to Heaven" (£26.99 from ET Games, PO Box 3579, Redditch, Wores, B98 0HS, Tel: 01527-520608) may

be the next best thing.

Answering religious questions entitles you to move around a board. Each complete circuit moves you higher on the seven-step plastic pyramid to heaven. But: "Players cannot win the game, even when the top step is reached, if they have more Lucifer tokens than Angel Gabriel tokens." But no wooden hisbops and no going to Hell. Verdict: Might liven up vicarage tea parties. Only for the devout.

Cult of the Week

Following our launch of the cult of 103ism last week, we have received news of several sightings including the following information from Samantha Hamilton:

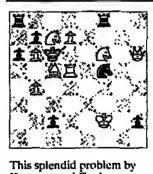
"I enclose the following exciting discovery concerning the number 103 bus, running between Romford and the Rainham War Memorial. Adding together the positions in the alphabet of the letters in the destinations. ROMFORD (18+15+13+6+15+18+4)

= 89, while RAINHAM WAR MEMORIAL similarly adds up to a total of 192. Thus Rainham War Memorial (192) minus Romford (89) equals 103. Amazing isn't it."

Don Stallybrass also informs us that

103 is the number of asteroid Hera, which was in beautiful aspect to Christine, Karen and Henry last week. We could be on to something very important here. More 103s later.

Chess William Hartston



This splendid problem by Kraemer and Zepler won first prize in a composing tournament in 1935. It is White to play and mate in three.

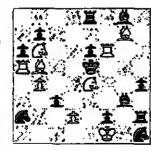
With Black's king surrounded, it looks as though it ought too be casy, but most mating attempts run into the same problem: as soon as White moves his knight from f6 to open the line from his queen to the black king, he runs into a discovered check on the f-file. White could eliminate the troublesome knight with 1.Rxf5, but that abandons the rook's defence of the d7-pawn and less Black survive until beyond move three with I... Rxfo.

What White needs is either another way to get at the hlack king with his queen, or a way to get his own king away from the problems on the f-file. The solution accomplishes this in an astonishing manner.

White begins 1.Ke1!! apparently walking into a variety of ambushes; hut look what happens. The threat is 2.Ng4+ Nxh6 3.Nc5 mate. If 1...c1=Q+ 2.Oxc1 h1=O+, White mates with 3.Bg1. (Or if Black checks with a rook on e8 on the second move od this line, then 3.Be3 is

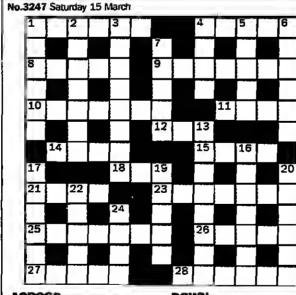
If Black tries promoting his pawns the other way round with 1...h1=O+ 2.Oxhl cl=O+. then 3.Rd1 is mate for 2...Re8+ 3.Re5 mate). Finally, and perhaps most difficult to spot. if 1...Rae8+ 2.Nxe8+ Rf6. White mates with

The idea of walking White's king into a barrage of checks is reminiscent of another classic three-move problem by Sam Loyd.



Here White is ready to deliver discovered checks on the fifth rank and on the long black diagonal, but his difficulty lies in providing a guard for the e4 and d4 squares. The main line of the solution is quite extraordinary: 1.Ke2!! fl = Q + 2.Ke3!! when any check from the black queen, bishop or rook is met by a discovered mate. The other variations I leave you to work nut on

concise crossword



Centre (6) Get back (7)

Towards source (8)

Large volume (4)

Raising agent (5)

Anger (5) US-born painter (8)

16 Purify (7) 17 Consult together (6)

Canal boat (5)

20 Egyptian deity (6) 22 Cloth (5)

24 Desire (4)

Complete (6)

ACROSS Make of car (6) Herb (5)

Channels for fluids (5) Defensive structure (7) Young hare (7) Agitation (4) Cut (3)

Operatic song (4) German wine (4) 18 Rabble (3) 21 European capital (4) 23 Replies (7) 25 Olympic sport (7) 26 Passenger ship (5)

27 Cattle farm (5) 28 Besiegers of Troy (6) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Peace, 4 Super (Pea-souper), 10 Cleaver, 11 Fever, 12 Lov. ol. 13 Network, 15 Rake, 17 Buoys, (9 Lease, 22 Test, 25 Invalid, 27 Cushiv, 29 Priam, 30 Chinese, 31 Using, 32 Agaie, DOWN: 2 Elegy, 3 Cavaliv, 5 Unit, 6 Envisors, 7 Scold, 8 Frank, 9 Broke, 14 Eek, 16 Asti, 18 Univels, 20 Etching, 21 Hippo, 23 Edict, 24 Byres, 26 Lemon, 28 Sweat,

Apology - Today's Magazine Crossword No.92 Two clues are incomplete, 34 down should read: Last place to rest closed hefore American tramp turned up (4). 35 down is: Cheers participant in pageant - a star! (4, hyphenated)

Bridge Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer South North **486 ♡AK** ♦1042 **♣**KJ7654 West East **◆**AQ942 ♦1073 ♥Q108 ♥J97 OK865 0097 **+**0 **\$10983** South ♠KJ5 ♥65432 OAJ3 **♣**A2

There was an unusual safety play for declarer lurking on this deal from rubber bridge. Would you have seen it? To set the scene: South, with

his filthy five-card major, opened 1NT (12-14 points) rather than 1 ♥ . West overcalled with 2♠ to leave North with a problem. Would a bid of 3 he taken as forcing? It looked as though an invitational rise to 2NT was a possibility, but North reasoned that (a) if the club suit "marched" there could easily be at least nine tricks, and (b) if the

Perplexity

Mixed Doubles

Eve, raping acorn, grins lie

The above sentence conceals three loosely connected answers. All you have to do to find them is to group the six words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. The sender of the first correct answer opened on 26 March will win a

clubs did not behave there might not even be eight. So he boldly bid 3NT and all passed. West led • 4 against 3NT and declarer won East's 10 with his jack. Clearly the clubs had to be brought in and, equally clearly,

East had to be kept out of the

South, I am sorry to report,

made the natural looking start of A at trick two. This would have wporked well if West had held ◆O,x or ◆O,xx, or if East had started with ◆Q alone or ◆Q,x. - there would have been no temptation to finesse on the second round if both opponents had followed low. As the cards lay, there was no way to establish

the clubs and keep East off lead. Consequently the contract failed. Any ideas? What about ♣2 at trick two? Now declarer is bome and dry in all the situations where the ace and another club would have succeeded and - wait for it also as the cards lie, when all he has to do is allow West to hold the trick with his # O. On lead,

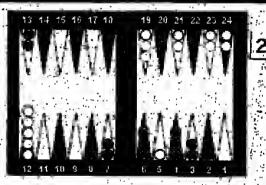
West can do no harm and declarer has five club tricks, two hearts, a spade and a diamond.

copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary. Answers to: Perplexity, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf,

London E14 5DL

1 March answers: BRAINS plus BRAINS equals ANSWER works out as 469138 + 469138 = 938276, so SWINE = 82137Winner: Jack Norwood (Leavenheath, Colchester).

Backgammon Chris Bray



I reached this position in the "quarters" chouette in New York (NB: in the US, they devalue everything by 100: a nickel game is actually \$5 a point, a filme \$10, a quarter \$25 and so on.) How should Black play a 5-1? I argued long and hard the we should play 13/8, 655* He did not like the risk of hering two blots. 6/5*. He did not like the risk of having two blots

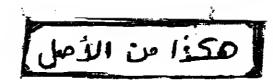
exposed and wanted to play 8/2, arguing that we could hit later, and that White would have trouble clearing all the men on his mid-point. We couldn't agree, but my partner was the captain in this three-handed chouette, so he played his move. White won some moves later when he redoubled us out in what had become a race. But who was right?

Back to basics. Black has given the cube away so White is in the game to the end. So Black must win using his men; he can never double White out. He bas two possible plans: (a) he can close out White's last man (or get it behind a full prime), (b) he can race (Black trails by one pip after the roll) and hope to hit a shot as White brings his men around the board. My thinking was: If White doesn't hit one of my blots I am very likely to close him out completely or at least get his man behind a 5 or 6 point prime. This will lock up the game and I will win a large number of

gammons as well, because of the number of men White still has to bring home. If he hits one of my blots I have a secure anchor in his board and there will be many further chances to win as White will be a long way from a redouble. But if I play 8/2 I don't see a clear path to victory and the game will become a toss-up. Therefore I want to be aggressive and hit.

Years of experience proved to be right - later rollouts showed the hitting play is much stronger. It leads to more wins and many more gammons and, after all, it is backed up by the oldest backgammon adage of all: "When in doubt, hit".

TURN TO PAGE 29... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damion Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst



interview

The designer survivor



Helen Storey: handling the How-are the-Mighty-fallen stuff well, and biding her time

hen Helen Storey was five years old, she was accidentally locked in a linen cupboard while playing hide and seek with her sister and brothers in the crepuscular basement flat in Belsize Park, north London where they all grew up. Rather than panic or collapse in childish tears, after 10 minutes in the darkness, "I started looking round for things to do. And I found my mother's wedding dress, inside a plastic bag. So I decided to try and work out which fabrics were which, just by touch alone - what was net, what was lining, what was boning, what was lace - and try to get a picture of the dress in my head. Everything just seemed to carry on from there... Everything here means II years of being fered as one of the most innovative and dynamic fashion designers in the UK.

Claustrophobia and darkness may not seem very likely seedbeds of creativity to the likes of you or me, but the texture-loving Ms Storey is different. She has a perverse streak a mile wide. Her deliriously rackety childhood was devoted to chronic shape-changing. She tried successively to convince as "tomboy, hippie, skinhead, punk and glamour queen. never quite settling into one image for long enough. The iconic figure in her mind was, oddly, Edith Piaf, "I was attracted to her very early on - not her looks but her life. My mother used to play her records. I remember her humming Je ne regrette rien' over the ironing board, and her songswere in my head from an early age." But all that tragedy (I protested), the drugs, those ghastly men she got fied up with... Storey raised a sophisticated eyehrow. "I'm always attracted to people with trauma in their lives," she said. "I like it. There's something very real and gritty about people who ve been through trauma. I like the blatant way they live their lives thereafter."

She should know. Helen Storey has had more than her share of upset, tragedy and heartbreak, her troubles coming not in single spies but in hattalions: just as she was fighting to keep her million-spinning frock house afloat, her husband Ron (the company's financial director) discovered he had cancer - a Tcell lymphoma was spreading through his head. making him deaf and hlind. He retired to bed for a year. Just as he began to recover, the business collapsed in ruins and its proprietor went on the dole. And as she was considering what to do next, the couple split up, overwhelmed by the strains on their relationship of illness and receivership combined.

Since then, she has made a living only through writing - a memoir of her traumas in the rag trade and the cancer ward called Figuring Fashion, and the beginnings of a career as a journalist, writing features for national newspapers. The day we met, at a noisy cafe in this case, the had just some har-foot from in Islington, she had just come hot-foot from interviewing Katharine Hamnett, the formidable progenitor of a million XL white T-shirts bearing the legend "58% DONT WANT PERSHING". "She didn'r tell me anything I didn't already know, but that was OK." said the new cub reporter. "I had a list of questions to ask, for which I needed answers, but she talked to me as a person rather than as someone who'd gone there to do a job. I thought she was very charming and very strong." Did it feel a linle odd asking another designer the kind of things a journalist might ask? "The thing I like about not designing," she said smartly, "is getting to talk to designers. I love asking the kind of questions we wouldn't have dreamt of asking each other when we were all

designers together."

A suspicious bunch, journalists tend to be rather sniffy about having newcomers, whether resting actors or deselected MPs, invading their ranks from other disciplines. But it would take a heart of stone to deny Storey a chance to shine. Our meeting in the café was delayed for several minutes as I prowled meffectually round the tables trying to spot a woman who corresponded to the image in my head of an ethereal, wispy-haired. Biba-meets-Burne-Jones dreamboat in a Monsoon frock. "If she's anyone in this establishment," I told myself. "she certainly can't be that strong-looking woman with the severely yanked-back hair and sub fisculum sweatshirt and chinos coolly regarding me from the window seat...".

She was, of course. Storey, in her new incarnation as The Survivor, is a stripped-down, unpainted, clear-sighted, bullshit-detecting version of the creative idealist who once flogged sequinned corsets and tight black PVC second-skins to the likes of Cher, Madonna and Sandra Bernhardt. She is more Gloria Gaynor than Edith Piaf these days. Her large and beautiful eyes regard you steadily, eyes that have stared death and financial ruin in the face. Her air of ineffable melancholy is occasionally subverted by a bearty laugh. She is warily friendly with strangers, as if convinced everything might go wrong (some cataclysmic misunderstanding)



John Walsh meets... Helen Storey

at any moment. But by the time you leave her side, you experience the strong feeling (a preist rare one in interviews) that she deserves your support and you must go and do something about it right now. You must help her out. You must visit the banks who pulled the plug on her company, and condemn them, loudly and in public. You must comb the streets of Islington to find her a new backer...

"I'm not waiting for a backer any more," she says shortly. "I went through all that. I'm not in a state of mind for a career at anything. Having made a career in fashion very quickly, I'm not sure I want to go back to it in the same way as before."

How much of a designer is she still? Oh, I'm purch a designer, What makes me one is that I design from an emononal standpoint, rather than a practical one."

You mean your clothes aren't weamble? She smiled. "Well, no, occasionally they're not. And I think it's important that some parts of a collection aren't wearable. They're the future. They're the couture thought, if you like, and from it you can, if you're clever, commercialise it so it fits in with what everyone else is doing." She is very keen on what she calls "the Dream-

4 Her large and beautiful eyes regard you steadily, the eyes that have stared death and financial ruin in the face 7

world, that is, the adventure playground of sculpted fabrics and clashing textures where the creative side of a designer's brain can disport itself without having to worry about what the passing trade in the High Street will make of it. "While I respect the High Street, and it's clearly what everybody wants. I have to be myself, which means doing things in a dreamlike way. Although - "she bridled, just slightly, "I must have done something wearable, since I was trading for 11 years."

She is the daughter of David Storey, the distinguished novelist and playwright who published This Sporting Life in 1960, won the Booker Prize in 1970 with Smille and whose plays - In Celebration, Home, The Contractor were massively applauded in the Seventies. a decade when his work seemed to be a fixture at the Royal Court theatre in Sloane Square. Still only 63, his readers have not heard from him in some years, but, says his daughter, "he's just fine. He's at that stage of his life where he feels he doesn't have to publish anything just for the sake of publishing it." It's with a slight frisson that you recall Storey studied at the Slade art school. Is that where his daughter's designer genes came from? Had he taught her anything? "Apart from putting a crayon in my hand, no." Was the house filled with her dad's pictures? "No. It was full of pictures by Philip Sutton, who was with him at the Slade. Those

and the odd poster from one of his plays."

Helen recalls hanging out at the Royal Court at rehearsals of her father's plays - "it was like a second home to him, the other workplace outside his bedroom" - and meeting all man-ner of famous actors. "But as a child you've no sense of who they are or their greatness. They were just nice blokes or they're not. So I thought Gielgud was very withdrawn and Ralph Richardson was very warm." (Both men were starring in Home.)

At Hampstead Comprehensive, a school of

hard knocks rather nearer Finchley than Flask Walk, she was pulled between twin impulses to be a ballet dancer or a punk, and endured the attacks of some deeply unpleasant youths who rerrorised the corridors, groped her nascent breasts and stabbed at her with metal rulers. "My father firmly believed in comprehensive education," she calmly recalls, "and was very disillusioned when he found out through me it wasn't working."

Helen wasn't working either, however, preferring to hit nightclubs and drink unfeasible quantities with her friend Sophie. Then one night, after smashing milk bottles and taking a swing at a policeman, she wound up in the cells. Sprung by her father at 4am, she abruptly stopped being a rebel. At Kingston Poly, she did an art foundation course and discovered a feel for clothes. "I loved experiments. I've always liked mistakes, which is commercially and professionally a dangerous thing to like. But I wasn't sure if I was going to be a sculptor, a painter or whatever. I was into making clothes that weren't 'made', putting together clothes without stitching. I made a knitted jumper full of holes and threaded with red ribbons, so the body inside would look like a human maypole. The head of the school came round and look my dabblings and mistakes for originality."

Such modesty. But none of it counted anyway, since she got a job at the Valentino salon in Rome and learned about the weirdly unreal. court-of-Versailles collective of neurotic enthusiasts and sycophantic popinjays that flap and fluster around a major-league designer; how a design on a sheet of paper is transformed (her words) "by a form of glorious madness" into a hundred frocks and jackets and blouses and unstructured frou-frou in the Paris shops.

She started her own label and opened her own shop in Newhurgh Street, London, in 1984. Her first carwalk show, in 1990, was titled 'Rage" and featured some coolly extravagantly sights - abbreviated sequinned shorts, lyera leotards in pop-art abstracts, a battle-field brussiere covered in bullets and a rose. Later, her tastes got wilder. Wherever you looked, there were draughty cutaway garments that sometimes looked like terrible accidents (the evening dress with cur-away bottom caused a lot of fuss). She dealt in festishistic materials like rubber and latex, and threw in some Moschino-like subversions of the whole opulent fashion circus, making dresses out of council bin-liners, a boaout of scraps, a ballgown out of men's shirts sewn together. "I did it out of guilt, I think, guilt nt being a fashion designer. I thought you were supposed to hate your job, you were there to make money. Then I realised you could make money from doing what you enjoyed. Then I worried that it wasn't really a profession. And my answer was to make something out of rubbish. Something's always drawn me down to more earthy things..."

Noting the trouble her excesses have caused

in the past (in one show, the models had to parade up and down their faces hidden behind the heads of birds or the antiers of deer), I wondered if she concerned herself over the dignity of the human body. Was she in the busi ness of dehumanising it? "Hnımm. Rather selfishly. I often think of the body as just part of my design process. I don't design to r body. But the part of my work that's most publicised only accounts for about three per cent of what I do. Behind the dress with the bare arse, there's 10 versions of it, complete with arse, and they're the ones that end up selling

The story of her success and where it all went is documented in Fighting Fashion, plainly told and full of nightmares, as huge orders come in from America | One order was a quarter of a million quid, which for a little girl was a lot of money. It was for thousands of dozens of items - we had to add extra columns on the order forms") and she discovers that the banks won't underwrite her against losses. She will be appearing at the ICA on 24 March to talk about her experiences. What advice will she give aspirant designers? Don't go into fashion? Don't trust hanks. "The only real answer is: leave. Go abroad. Certainly get the clothes made abroad. And if you can, get financed from there too. The other thing is not to rely on third parties. I really admire Katharine Hamnett who's grown her whole company off the back of her income, without any bank loans. It's the same with Paul Smith. They're probably the higgest successes we've got at home and look how they managed without any outsiders."

She has to run. Storey has to take her son Luke. 10, to a football match. "Every bloody weekend is training," she says fondly. "That and the Spice Girls..." After that she'll go back to her modest house in Willesden Green, to write her interview and worry about where the next cheque is coming from. Storey is handling the fallen-idol stuff very well, considering the losses she has sustained - of love, money, career, success, profit, reputation, stuff like that. The only thing that stops you swearing undying fealty to this resilient heroine is the certain knowledge that she'll be hack in business before the year is out. She may despise the fash-ion business for its flakiness, its volatility, the things it did to her, but you just know the enraptured little girl in her soul will always be around. fingering fabrics in the dark.

tenants at English Heritage. Some-I thing along the lines of "Can we cram upon this wooden 'O' a luxury block of flats, an office block perhaps?" On Wednesday, I stood outside the fenced-off site of the original Globe Theatre - the famous wooden 'O' - with Mark Rylance, the artistic director of the reconstructed Shakespeare's Globe a few hundred yards away and the actress Zoe Wanamaker, whose late father was the guiding spirit behind the project.

- FEFE

They were bewalling the decision of English Heritage to outlaw any further excavations on the huried ruins of the theatre. The empty Grade II listed huilding that stands above it is to be converted into luxury flats and Eng. there has to be a building above the

e await the rewrite of lish Heritage say further excava-Henry V by Sir Jocelyn tions would mean the building's. Stevens and his lieu- demolition. Nonsense, says Rylance. They would not disturb the flats at all with the minimal drilling that the research needs. But English Heritage is adamant and Southwark Borough Council has decreed "the permanent burial and commemoration" of the Globe's remains.

The research into the original Globe would have determined the size and shape of the stage of Shakespeare's theatre. Rylance's eyes blazed as be compared it to finding a new play. Cutting off this research mid-stream is something we might expect of property developers, but of the government's advisory body on preserving our beritage! It is simply scandalous. I would go much further than Rylance and ask why



original Globe at all. Aren't there Here is a joke told at the Comedy try's famous funny bone. Here is enough luxury flats in London? Shakespeare's theatre should be excavated completely and become a tourist attraction and centre of scholarship and historical research in itself. It would be in America, where they seem to honour England's heritage rather more than does English Heritage.



Store in London last Monday, What do you call a cloud with tegs? the way he tells 'em. The Comedy Store was hosting an evening of bemused, if not always amused, audience an insight into that coun-

another joke that failed to have them wetting themselves. "Cap-Answer: a sheep. And it wasn't even tain Kirk had to get the Starship Enterprise fixed. He asked Scotty how long it would take. Scotty German humour with a gathering answered, four weeks." Geddit? Fil of German comedians giving a explain anyway. Apparently waiting four weeks to have even a terrestrial contraption fixed in Germany is Independent in 1994 to clear car- cars. Shame on them.

unthinkable. Not surprisingly, this concept didn't translate very well. The funniest moment for me came when one of the German comedians questioned the Comedy Store management backstage about the billing for the evening which was called: "They always win on penalties." It's just a joke, he was assured. "But it's not true. We have a hetter football team," the haffled comic insisted. Enro-comedy may he one area where we will never get a single currency.

A press release arrives from architect Sir Norman Foster saluting the success of a campaign he "launched last year" to clear car- British Museum, our biggest parking from Horse Guards Parade in London. Could this intractable. Its forecourt, which campaign be in any way related to could have sculptures and an outthe campaign we launched in The door cafe, is blocked with staff

parking from Horse Guards Parade in London? Sir Norman is not alone. At least one other newspaper has claimed the campaign as its own. C'est la vie.

More importantly, it is worth remembering that our campaign to clear parked cars from cultural and historic buildings and surrounding spaces has not yet had ioial success. Horse Guards is a victory, despite the squeals of anger from Downing Street civil servants who parked there. The Royal Academy and the Courtauld Institute are certainly on the way to removing cars from their historic forecourts. But the tourist attraction, is proving

arts & books

Mean, moody and magnificent

POP Moody Blues Royal Albert Hall, London

m just a singer in a rock 'n' roll band." But Justin, what's with the "just"? You are megarich, you've sold 60 million albums and tonight sold out the Albert Hall as well.

Like a sonic seal you and the, ahem, boys basked in a warm pool of appreciation hased on long years of loving fandom and at least three greatest hits albums. You sang this crowd out of puberty in the Sixties. through love and marriage in the Seventies, into the suburbs with their kids in the Eighties, and will still be entertaining them in rounded middle-age when the millennium dawns.

And they are going to make you even richer. If they haven't yet replaced their vinvl copies of On the Threshold of a Dream and To Our Children's Children's Children with digitally remastered CDs, they will. For a cohort of The Generation, some Moody Blues tracks - "Tuesday Afternoon", "Question" are going to be played for ever and ever, amen.

As for being an rock 'n roll "band", at the Albert Hall there was a full symphony orchestra, two percussion sets, two keyboard kits, two backing singers as well, of course, as Justin Hayward and John Lodge on guitar, Graeme Edge on whimsical verse and drums and Ray Thomas on flute, tambourine, harp and the sweet, if rather stiff, body movements of a 55-yearold. All that, two cylinders of dry ice and a strohoscopic lighting scheme which gave us enough quasi-psychedelic blobs and whirls to remind us of days of future passed. To call Justio Hayward and the Moody Blues a

rock hand is a bit like calling David Frost a satirist - a past identity has given way to something altogether grander. The Blues are an institution. The concert programme called them rock's most vital and unique resource". In their time much imitated, they can claim to have invented the concept album; they first used a mellotron and gave us rock with big string hacking. They are the group that launched a thousand AOR stations.

"Age has not withered them," said a poet a little more original than Graeme Edge. (He got the embarrassment of his versifying out of the way at the start of the show when he came on in the dark and intoned several lines of numbing banality that it takes a real fan to stomach.) No, age has been relatively kind to a band that always had that soft chasing-theclouds-away side to it, Justin Hayward and John Lodge did a bit of business along the stage front with their guitars but it's parody and we all laughed.

Committed, gut-churning rock, it wasn't. What this greatest hits" concern offered was two well-turned back-catalogue sets, showcasing each of the four in turn. Musically, the orchestral arrangements were not elaborate. The Moody Blues have not "grown" since the summer of '69. But why tamper with a winning formula?

"I know you're out there somewhere." Jason sang. He did not have to look far. Before arthritis sets in, the Moody Blues will sell out big veoues as often as they care to play them.

David Walker



PHOTOGRAPH GERAINT LEWIS

Laying waste the idealist

be Peter Hall Company's repertory season at the Old Vic gets off to a stimulating start now with his production of Harley Granville Barker's Waste. "Sex, sleaze and politics for the general election," runs the ad, which would sound a shade opportunistic or a more suitable selling line for some Doug Lucie drama, if it wereo't for the fact that Barker actually delivers in all

those departments. A famous casualty of censorship, this play was refused a licence in 1907 on the ostensible grounds of its outspokenness about sexual relations and its reference to "a criminal operation" (ie abortion). The real reasons for the ban were, in all likelihood, political: the play casts a pene-trating, deeply undeluded eye on the country's cynical inner circles of power. Using the author's 1926 rewrite (which updates the proceedings so as to hring in the

Harley Granville Barker's play casts a penetrating eye on political sleaze

THEATRE Waste Old Vic, London

erences to Sinn Fein, etc), Hall of England and to devote the calls the piece, "the most effec-tive play about politicians since a great new educational system. tive play about politicians since Shakespeare".

That's probably pushing it a bit (I can think of a longish list of rivals for that title beaded by Dunton's Death.) Barker's drama is certainly remarkable, though, for the acuteness with which it demonstrates two types of waster that the idealist will always be disposable among men principally concerned with forging deals that help them cling to power; and that to be an idealist can involve the wastage of whole areas of a man's personal life.

Michael Pennington is excel-lent in the central role of Trebell, new bargaining strengths of the union-hacked Labour Party, ref-

An eminently practical visionary, he has made getting his Bill on the Statute Book a condition for aligning with the Tories who, oo the verge of regaining power, want to ditch the Opposition for years to come by stealing some of its programme. The hollow expediency of the party's commitment to Trebell and his plans is exposed when the married woman who was briefly his mis-

threatened by scandal. Ive often complained that Penningtoo is a cerebral, chilly, unsexy actor, but these qualities are perfect for Trebell, a precise, cant-hating clinical man who even seduces Felicity Kendal's overly arch Amy as if impatiently working through a committee agenda. The play brings him to a tragic sense of the cost of these politically valuable attributes and of placing all his capacity to love

tress, dies after a back-street

abortion and the politician is

prompted partly by his being discarded by the Tories. The superb, darkly droll scene of a conclave at the home of Denis Quilley's urbanely cynical leader, dramatises the ironic, half-accidental circumstances of his being dropped. There's no problem from the wronged husband (Greg Hicks) who agrees to keep quiet, or from Trebell, who says that, if need be, he'll own up. The difficulties are hypocritically manufactured by an elderly, bumptious, unloved MP, as soon as he picks up the fact that one of his enemies in the party will resign if Trebell is ditched. A great programme of reform expires amidst pettiness and

It is also paternal feelings for his dead child that push Trebell towards suicide and, to give these weight, the play has (uncom-fortably) to demonise Amy for her decision to abort. But that's not to doubt the genuinness of the hero's tragedy: discussing himself as if he were already posthumous, Pennington's Trebell retains, heartbreakingly now, the donnish, glacially smiling methodicality of manner that had masked the human waste. To 26 April (0171-928 7616)

Paul Taylor

Voyage of discovery

CLASSICAL Stravinsky: BBCSO/ Andrew Davis; Matrix Ensemble Royal Festival Hall; St John's, London

he BBC's Stravinsky series Rights of Spring has treated us over the past 10 days to a feast of the composer's music, a lot of it unfamiliar. Two concerts by the BBC Symphony Orchestra. under the invigorating lead of Andrew Davis, ranged widely over his astonishingly varied output, while Robert Ziegler and the Matrix Ensemble explored, among other things, the Russian period that first brought Stravinsky to international

The startling journey

which took the composer from youth to octogenerian mastery was dramatically illustrated in last Thursday's concert, where we heard the early Symphony in E flat, composed under the nutelage of his composition teacher, Rimsky-Korsakov, immediately after the "Aldous Hudey Variations", that astonishingly compressed masterpiece from the 1960s. A friend once asked me how long I thought the Variations lasted. To his delight, I fell into the trap, and supposed about 12 minutes. They are, of course, under half that length, but Stravinsky's masterly concentration of structural means made it

All of this was superbly suggested by Andrew Davis and the BBC players, although they only truly nailed the music's taxing details in a repeat performance, given, Davis told his audience, in order to prove the composer's point that the three exquisitely textured 12part Variations make a different expressive effect each time we hear them. As for the symphony, exuberantly presented by Davis, there is little to mark except the extraordinary affinities both thematically and

possible to suggest, as he would have put it, 12

minutes of felt time in five minutes of ontological, or

real, time.

Fifth and Eighth Symphonies. In truth. despite its charm, there is hardly an original moment in this work, which is the more odd considering that The Right of Spring was only three years away. The programme also included a sparkling performance of the Violin Concerto, with Kyoko Takezawa a bright but never brittle soloist, and Davis tautly in command. In fact, Davis seems particularly in nine with those neo-classical works that Boulez, for instance, another contributor to this concert series, has always dismissed. This was borne out by Davis's marvellous reading of Persephone the previous week. It was an interpretation that positively glowed, the chording in Stravinsky's exquisitely weighted textures . breathtakingly poised.
Wonderful singing by the
BBC Symphony Chorus and New London Children's Choir, a beautifully judged commentary by Irène Jacob, and Donald Kaasch's accomplished tenor completed the picture. It was followed by a powerfully-intense Oedipus Rex, whose vastly different classical world was no less magisterially captured. Jon Garrison, Louise Winter and Alan Opie were outstanding soloists and Samuel West parrated

with flair. Which leaves the Matrix Ensemble's Sunday evening concert. It was notable for a lively rendering of that inimitable burlesque, Renard, beautiful singing by Susan Roberts and Mark Tucker in the Cantata, and a rare performance of the Four Russian Peasant Songs for ladies voices and four horns, exhilarating in its rustic verve. The BBC Singers/ Matrix concert will be broadcast tomorrow, 9.45pm, on Choir Works', Radio 3

Anthony Payne

fine in theory but

much of too little

there was too

WEEK IN * THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY MEDIA+

Our 32-page section that takes on everything the press, television and advertisers throw at us. And asks why

TUESDAY NETWORK+

Cutting edge know-how on computers and IT

THURSDAY EDUCATION+

Our unbeatable section for everyone who educates, is being educated or cares



in a cause. This recognition is texturally with Glazunov's THE FILM THE PLAY THE BALLET Lady in the The English Dance Bites **Patient** Dark Writer-director Anthony Minghelia's multi-Oscar nominated \$30m screen The Royal Ballet's brief tour of a six-part evening of works by new choreographers Cathy Marston, Torn Sapsford and The London premiere of the Moss Hart/ Kurt Weill/ Ira Gershwin show about version of Michael Ondaatje's glamorous Liza Elliott (Maria Friedman) seeking Booker prizewinner is an epic Christopher Wheeldon and love story starring Ralph therapy to avoid cracking up. With Charlotte Comwe established-names William Fiennes, Kristin Scott Tuckett, Matthew Hart and Thomas and Juliette Binoche, and James Dreytus. Designs by Adrianne Lobel and Nicky Gillibrand, directed by Ashley Page, including the final performance by Adam. score by Gabriel Yared, edited by Walter Murch and Cooper, the star the company produced by Saul Zaentz. Cert 15, 165 mins, across Francesca Zambello. should never have let go. At the National Theatre, The tour is over but some af London (0171-928 2252) the names will reappear. Adam Mars-Jones praised the d Paul Taylor found it dated and Louise Lévene was distinctly "relentiessly beautiful" film. "Minghella's touch is so sure." the "obstinately unthrilling production does it few unimpressed. If the Royal DICELLENT Ballet persists in such a low-"An intense epic, both favours... Friedman is badly 古 key touring programme there critical miscast". "Horrid costumes sweeping and fiercely is a very real danger that tha intimate... the film crackles throughout... Zambello has nation's taxpayers will wonder with a palpable sexual charge," reveiled the Spectator. "The performances directed the show in much GOOD what all the fuss is about." the same way that Friedman "We positively regretted we had wasted a whole evening đ performs the title role: as are flawless, more surprising various kinds of artificiality. on too much that was shoddy are the fluency, poetry and scale of Minghelia's direction," sald Time Out. "You can take over-choreographed, trite, bogus," the FT. "Friedman is and worthless," thundered the Sunday Telegraph. "Too many eggs in one basket, not all of one of our finest musicalyour brain to The English theatre talents but... she which hatch... generous in its Patient and you will not be never comes close to moving insulted," approved The Times. "Ravishing," drooled Arena. "If Scott Thomas courses, what it lacks is a main dish," worried The POOR you," shrugged The Daily Telegraph. "Friedman's stellar Sunday Times. "Opens most d performance," saluted The promisingly with a thoughtful work by Cathy Marston... It doesn't win an Oscar there's Guardian. *The supporting no justice. Same goes for the film," asserted GQ. "Fails DEADLY was left to Ashley Page to cast is fine and Friedman more than fine," cooed The produce the most short of greatness," carped the Standard. KEY Times. "What are you waiting for?" cried the Mail. accomplished dance of the evening," declared The Times. Minghella's leap into the major league is Good score, hopeless design Touring small-scale work is

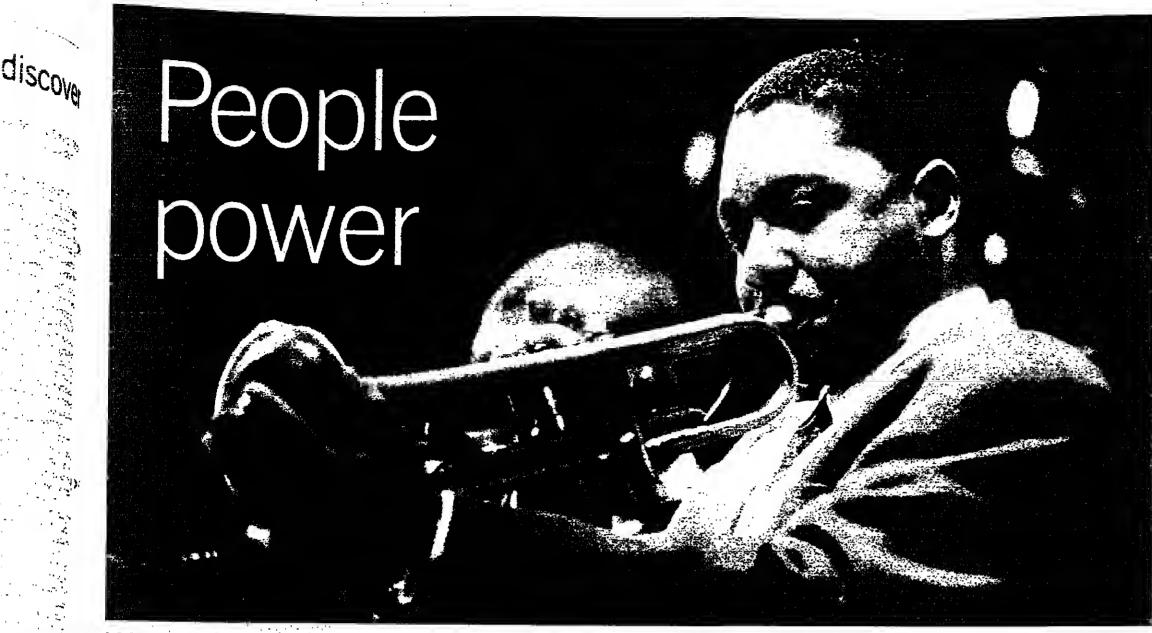
direction. Thank

Comwell and

God for Charlotte

unprecedented.

هكذا من الأصل



Wynton Marsalis has turned the hardships of slavery into sublime jazz. By Phil Johnson

the history of slavery where the audience comes out whistling the tunes has to count as some kind of a triumph. Blood on the Fields by Wynton Marsalis - who wrote both the music and the libretto, and who performs the work at the Barbican on Tuesday with his Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra and the three featured vocalists of John Hendricks, Miles Griffith and Cassandra Wilson - is an extraordinary achievement by any standards.

While the London concert is sold out, everyone will have a chance to hear it soon when the Sony CD of the piece is released. Though previously Marsalis's music has, despite his abundant gifts as a trumpet soloist, tended to err on the side of a rather dry

The state of the s

classicism, Blood on the Fields is compellingly emotional. As Marsalis is a controversial figure in jazz, whose disdain for the avant-garde and for popular black music forms such as rap has earned him his share of enemies, this is his best defence yet. Indeed, it's a counter-punch that it may be difficult to recover from.

Dealing with the experience of American slavery from the middle passage to. arrival in the New World, the work resounds with the whole history of jazz. from fahled field-calls and hollers, to guthucket New Orleans blues, ecstatic gospel.

three-hour oratorio about ululation's, and the elegant, Ellingtonian measures of classic Harlem swing. The musical story doesn't stop there, of course, as the historical material is played from within a contemporary, post-modernist, idiom where the cool-school harmonies of Miles Davis and Gil Evans, and the splintered orchestral voicings of Charles Mingus provide much of the dominant colour.

Each of the three vocalists brings their own contribution too: John Hendricks the veteran scat-singer - gets to do his thing in one mesmerising solo-feature that will surely stop the show; Cassandra Wilson,

▲ Slavery is people

being stripped of

their dignity 7

who is the most affecting female jazz singer since Billie Holiday, Betty Carter and Shirley Horn, adds her deepvoiced melancholy and incomparable countryhlues feeling; while the gospel-trained Miles Griffith, on the face of it a less powerful singer than Hendricks or Wil-

through his deacon-like strength, as well as lending a suitably churchy vocal response to the calls of the orchestra's congregation of horns.

The music of the 14-piece band is full of glorious, hravura effects that hark back to the earliest days of jazz, with Marsalis's own trumpet crowing, whinnying and barking in the opening number in a way that recalls the first-ever jazz recording by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band 80 years ago. With the orchestra built around several key personnel from Marsalis's own small

groups, he has been able to write for particular instrumental voices, and thus use the expressive potential of the soloists to the full. Though the written score is complex and exacting, there's still plenty of room for improvisation.

"I always tell the musicians that they can do what they want with the music," Marsalis told me last week, "It's just an outline, but the voicings for when the horns are all playing together, those can't change. There's a lot of room for the rhythm section to improvise, and there's a lot of improvisation going on around that between the rest of the band. I know the personalities of the musicians, because with most of them I knew them when they were younger, and they came up with me."

If we could have expected Marsalis to get the music right, the accomplishment of the libretto is still something of a shock. Though Marsalis has written before, contributing a stylish, aphoristic and often witty text to the book Sweet Swing Blues on the Road, from 1994, where short essays or impressionistic sketches act as a compleson, supplies the necessary sense of balance ment to Frank Stewart's photographs, the generally haphazard and under-funded poetry of some of the lines from Blood on the Fields rewards close attention.

drum / Playing proudly, pounding, saying softly, come" from Cassandra Wilson's opening song, gives an idea of the way he uses rhythm, and this is extended in the almost Brechtian device of having lines voiced in chorus by the orchestra to preface each movement, which Marsalis conducts as if they were musical phrases. His dynamics - what's loud and what's soft." feeling for the poetic gesture and its place within a context of jazz performance is evi-

dent in Sweet Swing Blues, where he writes that: "Whenever somebody plays something good on our bandstand, we jokingly cup our hands together, reach down, scoop up the sound, and pour it all over our faces ike we're bathing in it."

Blood on the Fields was premiered in New York, at Lincoln Centre's Alice Tully Hall, on 1 April, 1994. It was received with extravagant praise. A starsince his first recording as a leader at the age of 19. Marsalis, now 35, has not pn + duced anything so completely satisfying being put in prison, in being subjected to before, despite a number of attempts at misconceptions in the media, and in incorextended forms.

Moreover, the history of the extended form in jazz has never been a particularly fruitful one. Apart from the suites of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, there has been little that sounds like more than a compilation of themes, perhaps as a result of the

nature of most jazz commissions. Of Blood on the Fields. Marsalis says that: "With "I think I hear a drum. I think I hear a something that long, it's always the form that's difficult. The problem is one of keeping the form together, and I had never done the words myself before. The story is one thing that makes it easy to keep it organised. I know how I want it to sound but it's difficult because it's so big. In mixing it for the album, the problem is the

That Blood on the Fields has proved so

though the presence of the vocalists and hence the need to write proper tunes is probably paramount. Certainly, the theme of slavery, and its inevitable contemporary resonance, is one that Marsalis feels deeph. Nor does he see any great sense of liberation in present-day American society. "Slavery is just the same social and political stuff as is organised today," he said. "It's people being stripped of their dignity and not given the opportunity to participate. Nowadays it's reflected in people rect perceptions of

groups of people." Accordingly. Blood on the Fields offers no ■ We scoop up the great messionic sense of release from bondage. The libretto sound and pour it ends on a note of cauall over our faces 7 tious optimism, with the

repeated refrain of the

closing number. "Free-

dom's in the trying Walk on through the door" preceding a last African imprecation from the chorus, and the hand's final theme. The songs, though, are something else, especially when deliv-cred by Hendricks and Wilson. They have such a wonderfully stubborn, indomitable feel to them that they really do bring a rare. authentically humanist sense of grandeur to the work. And if you can whistle that, there has to be hope somewhere. Blood on the Fields' is performed Thes. Barbican, London, EC2 (0171-638 8891).

some tickets may be available on the day; the successful might be due to several things. CD is released on Sony

Brian Friel: What's the question?

THEATRE Give Me Your Answer, Do Abbey Theatre, Dublin

omething of a serpent with its tail in its mouth, Brian Friel's wambling new play. Give Me Your Answer, Do. is a curionally self-conscious piece about a bankrupt, elderly Irish artnovelist. Tom Connolly (Tom Hickey). Mystically prodded through a winedrunk afternoon by his wife. Daisy (Catherine Byrne), he quixotically evades the issue of whether to sell his manuscripts - including personal, never published work- to the agent (Darragh) Kelly) of a Texas university, or whether to face the nightmare of a blank page.

One wonders, after Dancing at Luchnasa, whether this is a dilemma that really ails Friel. What seems more at stake in this drifting, fragmented, selfindulgent script is the plight of a "serious" writer, fighting against the

constraints of past success.

Opening and closing with the strangest and most unexplained shadow over all the proceedings - Connolly's mute daughter, Bridget (Pauline Hutton), a drooling, cross-eyed sanatorium patient receiving electroshock treatment for an unspecified "nervous" ailment - the play wallows in the bleak, dignity-crumbling effects of age on three inveterate couples; here converging on a Scrabbleand-alcohol afternoon on a sunlit lawn.

The Connollys, at the end of the day, emerge as the sanest of the lot. Daisy's parents are Jack (David Kelly), a dandified, pathetically kleptomaniae cocktail pianist; and Maggie (Aideen O'Kelly J. a self-deluding, chair-bound, arthritic, retired doctor. Enter the overthe-top frivolity of Tom's best friend and chief rival - the popular novelist. Garret Fitzmaurice (Des McAleer) - and his acidly vivacious middle-class wife. Grainne (Frances Tomelty), Like all the women, her vivid button eyes constantly strip her husband of the least temporary arrogation of self-respect.
What emerges from the icily savage,

glancing encounters is a cruel and depressing depiction of the ageing, upper-hohemian, Irish drinking classes. Friel's constant theme of post-colonial decay is heavily overstated in Frank Hallinan Flood's set. But there is something unbridled in Friel's portraits of dissembling rival-writers; despicable agent-creatures, talking "ugly money"; and, most crucially, the indolent parasitic wives - vicariously withering every inch of their husbands ineffectual hopes.

Maybe it's meant as a pacan to their lot - but this is a deliberately inconclusive piece of writing; marconed somewhere between memory and confused contemporaneity. No matter how closely you follow the will-o'-thewisp of Friel's substantial intelligence, it's very difficult to run the more disturbing elements to ground. And yet, the show delivers quite a number of emotional stabs - often preserved in a nostalgic waft of, say, Mendelssohn or Fats Waller.

Directed by Friel himself, this show has some serious longueurs and offnotes. It might have worked better with the interpretative counterpoint of another director, but Friel's fetishistic attention to his own text does worm its way uncomfortably into some private recess of your mind.

Mic Moroney

I want to be a clone

Hollywood's duplication complex started long before Dolly skipped into view, says John Lyttle

one had ever considered "the commercial, moral and cultural implications of cloning". Ah. Hollywood has. As befits a system geared to getting the public to swallow

Die Hard, Die Hard 2 and Die Hard with a Vengeance; the same goddamn story three times in a row. Indeed, cloning is the perfect metaphor for contemporary Hollywood itself, hence its nigh-obsessive interest in the pros and cons of duplication.

Not that cloning proper has ever quite paid off at the box office. As Joe Roth, head of Disney Studios, recently opined: "I've never read a cloning script that I wanted to make." But that was before the world said hello Dolly. Now the industry is looking to the summer release of Alien 4: Resurrection in which Sigourney Weaver, disposed of in a vat of molten metal in Alien', is regenerated from a single rescued skin cell and then separated from the monster embryo she carried in the preceding picture. Advance word suggests that, in keeping with President Clinton's hand wringing. Alien 4 highlights what was submerged in Alicn': the crosion of women's reproductive rights. What price motherhood - even to a monster - when the shadows in white coats have made it quicker by tube? As Alien' predicted, the issue is control. So small wonder the hills of Beverly are alive with the sound of once discarded scripts being dusted off. Here not nature, taking the next evolution-

rom the column inches devoted to Dolly the sheep, you'd think that until now no ally herself – her future self, sent to replace her, as the robot Maria usurps the place of the real Maria in Fritz Lang's Metropolis (1926). Talk about an identity crisis.

Tapping into the Zeitgeist is what

Hollywood does best. As is covering all the angles. As the prophetic Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956) suggests. even "dehumanisation" is in the eye of the beholder. Invasion has been declared dystopian, because for the Homo sapiens "original", doubling-up turns out to be a form of death: the self is not complimented, but displaced. (A notion lifted from twin movies - in The Dark Mirror and A Stolen Life, someone has got to go.) The surface remains the same, but the spark that makes you (supposedly) unique is gone - an inclugence Dr Pretorious, playing God, archly dismisses in The Bride of Frankenstein (1935), that early venture into reproduction without sex: "The soul. Can you touch it, smell it?". One imagines many of today's scientific community, in the face of hype and hostility, bursting to quote him, but not daring. Those aid

grants, you see. As the pod people, and Pretorious, with his miniature beings, imply, it's not so much our vaunted spirituality that is offended but our vanity. The imitation of life, on the other hand, views itself as an "advance", an improvement". Except it's science,





also subliminally peddles. Adjusting to the stress of contemporary living is what forces Keaton to split into four to cope with work and home, though the cautionary message is that his copycats turn out coarser, camper, dumber and, worse, believe they deserve auton-

omy - that they are individuals too. Recognition is what the replicants of Blade Runner (1982) also crave. Cuc the slave force scenario beloved of the and - here we circle back to Sigour-

ary step, a message the Michael demand basic civil rights; rights that Keaton comedy Multiplicity (1996) must be denied so the idea and ideal of "human" individuality can pass muster. Arguments dismissed as sci-fi piffle then but that in recent weeks have reconstituted as lofty editorial.

These are not questions that overly trouble the men of Stepford, who routinely murder their flesh and blood wives in favour of identical, but wholly passive partners. The Stepford Wives (1975) is less about acting the Deity Left, and watch the clones rebel to ney and Doc Frankenstein - more for an ideas, please be advised.

guv: Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis' (1926); 'Invasion of the **Bodysnatchers**'

It's a fair copy,

the state of the s

about men stealing the role of mother. This theme is explicit in the same year's Embyro, in which Rock Hudson's foetal experimentation is revealed to be a selfish quest for the perfect woman: malleable, in other words, One notes that male knock-offs - see Atomic Man, taken from a single strand of Clark Kent's hair in Superman 4, or the "evil" Superman who emerges from the hero in Superman 3 - tend to have minds, and plans, of their own, "bad" though they might be. Apparently, cloning doesn't tip the 'natural" gender balance, but instead reinforces it + not evolutionary but reactionary.

Perhaps Alien 4 will rectify that, as the recent TV movie, The Support Husbands, attempts to. Tables turned. the male is artificially bred to give satisfaction the old model can't: Brave New Man. But, as one doubtful character warns, every life begins pure - or. at least, pretty vacant, only to be corrupted by a thousand outside forces. In other words, biology isn't destiny. Experience is. A truism both commercial celluloid and vapourish fourth estate stubbornly fail to address, with the sole, and wholly surprising exception of The Boys of Brazil, a film that hlithely allows 94 pubescent Hitlers to go their own way, confident that nurture, social circumstance and fate's fickle ways have as much to do with what makes us what we are as the DNA helix, cloned or otherwise. Merchants of doom and scriptwriters stuck

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Screen-age children of chaos

Pat Kane surfs in from cyberspace to explain the digital revolution

t's almost become normal, this place called cyberspace. Morning radio presenters reluctantly mumble "at-something-dot-co" for their listeners' correspondence. After-hour pub conversations. white collars askew, begin like this: "Christ, I had 40 e-mails today." Cybercafes pop up in the dreariest backwater high streets while net terminals quietly appear in public libraries and the homes of relatives. My mother-in-law bought a Pentium PC with her reorement money a few months ago. Like the Walkman, video and camcorder, the Internet looks like another of those world-shattering technologies that hecomes slowly normalised by the muffled textures of British life.

So it's perhaps not the hest moment for these three examples of American cyber-evangelism to hit our shores. The small but significant cloud raining on their parade is the recent collapse of the UK edition of Wired magazine. Despite the high numbers of computer enthusiasts in this country. there was no real market for Wind's Californian ideology about "the digital revolution" - nor also, perhaps, for its aggressively freemarket politics. Given the opposition parties' joint commitment to a national information infrastructure, what seems more likely in Britain is a digital reformation - the Internet and its uses seeping into the cracks and pores of everyday institutions (the school, the hospital, the office), helping to lubricate a social cohesion that already exists.

When reading these books, however, a niggling question arises. If the British manage to make cyberspace horing, will we miss out on the Revolution? In Children of Chaos (HarperCollins, £12.99). Douglas Rushkoff is already out there on the barricades, arguing that a whole new planetary consciousness is being created by Nin-tendo kids and Japanimation fans. Donna Haraway pushes the boat out even further in Modest Witness Second Millennium (Routledge, £14,99), arguing for a feminist polities which sees no boundaries culture that might work across a

human and non-human. Even John Seabrook - a New Yorker writer. whose Deeper: a two-year odyssey in cyberspace (Faber, £12.99) is reassuriogly humbling - hegan his online journey thicking that "politics, ethics, and metaphysics all the great disciplines of mankind - are ... yours to make again".

Deeper ends with Seahrook's computer making unstoppable fart nuises during a crucial meeting with the New Yorker editorial team - which should alert you to the book's intentions. This is cyherspace as ao extended episode of Friends, the dalliance of a talented young professional with the latest lifestyle option. Seahrook mixes wise-cracking and soul-searching in equal measure. Quill-peo British readers will also enjoy his brahmin hackground. While browsing through an on-line archive, he is reminded of "walking through the Princeton hoathouse in the dim light after crew practice". Trying to account for the compulsiveness of net-surfing, he quotes a line from Eliot's Four Quartets - "distracted from distraction by distraction.

Where Seahrook renders the Net as extended cooviviality. Douglas Rushkoff sees it as only one sign of a completely new civilisation. Children of Chaos refers to what Rushkoff calls the "screenagers" - those 12- to 25-year-olds in Britain and America whose consciousness is built from MTV, SuperMario, retro television, the joysticks and mouse-clicks of cyber-tech. Although his book sometimes reads as if dictated from under a virtual reality helmet. Rushkoff is to he commended for trying to link chaos theory and cultural critique so lucidly. When so much science is now invoked to limit our options - Darwinist psychology and sexual neurology being two recent culprits - it's a change to read something that emphasises play and creativity as a norm of human nature.

But Rushkoff embarrasses as much as he enlightens. The brilliant counter-intuitive readings of street



net", wouldn't you know) sometimes don't quite stretch to grownup subjects. Bosnia's bloodbath, for example, tests the author's faith in the positive evolution of human culture, "If you take a goldfish that has been kept in a tiny bowl and release him into a lake." Rushkoff helpfully adds, "he will swim in tiny circles for quite a while before he realises he has more room." The goldfish, in case you don't get the analogy, is Bosnia.

Donna Haraway would probably

ops content for TV and the Inter-net", wouldn't you know) some-incarceration. Rarely has the muchmaligned subject of cultural studies produced such a case for the pros-ecution. Her bizarrely titled Modest Witness@Second Millennium: Female Man (c) Meets Onco-Mouse(tm) has one extraordinary premise, hammered through its appallingly written slabs of interdisciplinary babble. In the age of genetics and informatics, everything whether human or non-human, organic or inorganic - is a political

agent, and should be treated as such. You don't believe me? Here we

go: "Any interesting heing in technoscience," writes Haraway, "such as a textbook, molecule, equation, mouse, pipette, bomb, fungus, technician, agitator, or scientist, can - and aften should - be teased open, to show the sticky economic, technical, political, organic, historical, mythic, and textual threads that make up its tissues."

What's irritating about this book is that there was never a greater need for an articulate critique of science, at a time when we are more than ever (in one of Haraway's hap-

Bonkers? Possibly.

pier phrases) "bodies of data". But how do you begin to grapple with the expanded range of human choices that digital technology and bioscience now offer if the guidebooks are as useless and bermetic as this?

Perhaps the difference between cyber-cultures across the Atlantic lies in our lack of a frontier mentality. Our national dream is not the American one - that of unlimited space traversed by sovereign individuals, improvising their society into being, using technology curse the bloody electrics. Which is (whether gun or modem) to

exploit the wilderness (whether natural, or digital). To his credit, Seabrook keeps making this connection - to his own parents. grandparents and great-grandparents, all hucksters and grafters in the grand tradition of American blue-sky enterprise.

No matter how pro-entrepreneurial the British parties of business claim to be, they will never infuse the next century with the same Whitmanesque fervour. They will sing the body electric; we'll probably as it should be.



week

n December 1995, two school exercise books filled with a childish scrawl arrived on the desk of Olivier Orban, editorial director at the French publishers Plon. The manuscript came via a lawyer and purported to be the journal of a tcenager called "Chimo". He presented himself as a 19year-old benr (secondgeneration French Arab) who lived on a sink estate in the Paris outer suburbs: the rundown banlieue at the end uf the Metro lines.

Puhlished last spring. Lila Dit Ca titillated and scandalised literary Paris with its tale of a 16-year-old streetwise hlonde. This "angel with the mouth of a whore spins crotic fantasies for her young swain as an escape from the "chaos and misery" of their surroundings. The book proved to he a runaway bestseller; foreign rights went for a vast sum, and David Watson's fine translation will appear from Fourth Estate next week as

Lila Surs (£9.99). Now, the French love bookish mysterics and hoaxes; and they have plenty of previous when it comes to concocting them. In 1975, the novelist Romain Gary won the Prix Goncourt under the mask of "Emile Ajar". And when it comes to anonymous literary porn. remember that the authorship of The Story of O fuelled salon chatter for decades. (It was in fact written by Dominique Aury. a distinguished - and far from masochistic publisher who attended board meeetings at

NEW AUTHORS PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED ALITHOGS WITH PINNING INVITED RITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT IT Gallimard well into her eightics). Fans of the French blend of

erotica and exotica that dates back at least to Flaubert's Salammbo will enjoy Lila Says. Yet it sounds to me about as genuine as a 25 franc note. A touch of Carmen: a hint of La Traviata. not to mention all those 19thcentury tarts called Lola: mix those flavours with French curiosity about the mysterious East in their own backyard and a smidgeon of the social conscience evident in Mathieu Kassovitz's film La Haine (a much more credible work), and you have the

Behind this cunning package, you can almost smell the Giranes of some middle-aged Left Bank intellectual and taste his late-night inspirational Scotch (Chivas Regal or Black Label, if I know the type). In a typically improbable allusion. "Chimo" even nods to his own cultural pedigree. He talks of the short journey taken by the slumming bourgeois who come to the suburbs for cheap sex and stolen goods as "this trip to the Orient, this dip into the secret world of the harem". If the author truly turns out to be a badly-educated young bear from the high-rise wilderness, I shall happily treat the team at Plon to the

best couscous royale in town. Intrigued readers may reply: so what? All talented Writers mimic distant voices and imagine lives far from their own. True, but the chances of a real kid with a passion for the written word emerging from the semiphettoes into the Parisian limelight remain as slim as ever. For more than a decade, one in seven French voters has backed Europe's most successful Fascist party, the Front National. Governments have responded with a string of clampdowns and round-ups intended to hully the genuine Chimos inth silence. Whatever Lila and her potes may want to say. the French state and its flics

still answer with a curt "shut

up and get hack in your



Tibor Fischer: 'naff characters'

Bowled over and out

Tibor Fischer's new novel is an empty vessel, writes Simon Louvish

The Collector Collector by Tibor Fischer, Secker, £12.99

eing reviewed is a lucky dip for an author. One person's opinion is transmitted as a general cachet or black mark. In the past, Tibor Fischer has attracted the plaudits of such luminaries as Salman Rushdie, John Updike and AS Byatt. This time he's got me. Tough.

This preamble done, I can no

longer delay my reluctant response to a fellow author: this book is truly terrible. Fischer's first novel, Under the Frog, was a justly acclaimed tragicomic vision of the Hungary of his parents' generation, a place of young men twisting in the gyre of an idiotic regime, culminating in the romantic and ill-fated rebellion of 1956. "As a Hungarian," a friend tells the hero of that book, Gyuri Fischer, "you should be prepared for the odd cataclysm."

Gang, shifted this cataclysmic and anarchic vision into a contemporary tale of a philosopher who prefers hank robbery to academia. At one point, a friend of the protagonist suggests he would be at his best if he was seot back to the era of the Greeks, whence he could "communicate to us via red figure Attic vases."

In The Collector Collector, this is precisely what happens. The protagonist, a Sumerian howl, has been passed down over the ages, the perfect epitome of the "been it, seen it" syndrome. A great opportunity, you might think, to ruminate on the eternal foibles and follies of humanity.

But what happens? The eponymous bowl, in keeping with its sly origin as boozy philosopher Eddie Coffin of The Thought Gang, spends the bulk of the book involved with two stereotyped women. Rosa, the art expert, longs for a good man to funny. But that book had chutz- out the Gangs.

His second book, The Thought love but keeps dating nerds and lang, shifted this cataclysmic creeps; Nikki, a sluttish ex-prostitute, drops ber knickers at the slightest pretext and does her hest to destroy Rosa's life. Instead of eternal wisdom, the bowl appears to represent a kind of English football-hooligan laddishness, despite its detours into tales of past human manities.

A Tiborian thought: Why are all the people who own a Sumerian bowl, through the centuries, such outright dickheads? At certain moments a coherent grotesquerie emerges, as when the bowl reflects, on eating, that "every creature on the planet is trying to persuade the rest of the

planet into its stomach." This is the Tiborian universe: a world of unmitigated exploitation, stupidity and mindless violence. The rot set in in The Thought Gang, which depended on the reader accepting that inflicting pain can be inherently

pah, genuinely surreal moments, a proper zing and many other words beginning with Z. This one has a succession of naff characters, unbelievable events and an obsession with dicks, tits and various euphemisms for sex which might appear hilarious in a bar at one-thirty am.

I have no doubt at all that Tibor Fischer can write, conjure with words, play with language, make you turn the page. The question is, to what purpose? In Under the Frog, he wrote about things that mattered deeply: youth, desires, dreams and their destruction under the treads of tanks. He is not the first, nor the last author to fetishise violence in lieu of any other outlet for the expression of the malaise of our times - a deep-seated loss of faith

in any values untainted by hypocrisy, selfishness and omnivorous greed. I just think it's zhlubish. Bring on the Thought with-

When Pythagoras took off his skirt

The Old Testament we've known for ages. The new one, we've had for close on 2000 years. But what about the Very New Testament, revealed in 1993? "And the Lord came down to see the accelerator which the children of men builded ... And the Lord sighed, and said. Go to it. let us go down and there give them the God particle, so that they may see how heautiful is the universe I have made ..." I particularly like that "go to it". Quite an improvement

on old King James. The God Particle is the name of a book by the US astrophysicist Leon Lederman, "Essentially a long argument for why America should fund the now defunct \$10hn Superconductor Supercollider," says Margaret Wertheim, the book also contained "the unmistakable implication ... that particle physics is a direct path to the Deity. Hence the Very New Testament episodes, inserted in Celesnne Prophecy fashion here and there

in the text. "It is not at all clear whether Lederman's theologising comes from a

The culture of physics is infested with blokeish fantasies, says Jenny Turner Pythagoras' Trousers: God, physics and the gender wars

desire to sell books." But doesn't it look as if Lederman, whether in a fun or a cynical spirit, has just decided to

try his hand at writing junk? Margaret Wertheim is an Australian science journalist who works in the US. This book's argument, as she presents it in her introduction, is elegant and compelling. From Copernicus to Stephen Hawking, there has seldom been a famous physicist who did not pepper his formulae with tefaren't supposed to be religious. Are all these physicists secret mystics at

At the same time, physics is of all vocations (with the exception of the Catholic clergy) the one that has been most hostile to women. Ergo. the culture of physics is patriarchal and genuine religious faith, or scientific priestly. It excludes half the human Boyd Tonkin hubris," writes Wertheim, "or just a race, on irrational grounds.

by Margaret Wertheim, Fourth Estate, £9.99 The story begins with Pythagoras of Samos (of the famous theorem), apparently one of the first Greeks to start wearing trousers instead of the more usual skirt. Pythagoras first started thinking about the universe in terms of fundamental mathematical relationships: odd and even, squares and triangles, structure and event. He also invested numerical relationships with emotional and cosmic significance: 216, for example, the "psyerences to "God". But scientists chogonic cube" of 6 x 6 x 6. And he may have allowed the odd woman to join his inner circle, although they would have been at a bit of a disadvantage as, in his system, femininity = odd numbers = had.

> The story goes on with Copernicus and Kepler. Galileo and Bacon, Einstein and the quantum-mechanical cats. The basic structure of Wertheim's book is the traditional

pageant-through-history: ancients, middle ages. Renaissance, Enlightenment, modern times. Within that, we get pocket biographies of all the hig male prime movers. These are followed by shorter, feminist-apologetic sketches of the women, from Hypatia on, who might have been prime movers, too, if the men had let them. The argument quickly loses its dynamism and so, very noticeably, does the prose. The sophisticated "cultural history" of physics we were

promised never really turns up. Most disappointingly, Wertheim's book completely loses sight of its most interesting goal: a natural history, as it were, of how physics through the ages has been motivated by fantasies about universal mastery and God. Instead, it attempts to make complex points about how sexism, religiosity and social irresponsibility feed into one another (as they obviously do on some level), but

in an unhelpfully simplistic way. For example, there is something deeply blokeish about Lederman ginormous Supercollider, But how could physics possibly not be infested

it has had? That's just our basic reality, as all-pervasive as the air we breathe. No amount of weak-feminist if-only-ing is going to change that.
At one point, Wertheim cites

admiringly the work of a woman biologist who won her Nobel prize. apparently, for, uh, "listening" to her plants. If only they'd had a women's room at Los Alamos. They could have sat around "listening" to their little lumps of plutonium, and spared humanity the trouble of the atom bomb ... That's a cheap stroke, of course. I know that Wertheim doesn't intend such a fatuous comparison. But the trouble with this sort of history is that's exactly what happens when such a work falls into the

wrong bands. The woman biologist deserves better, as do women in general. And so, pre-eminently, does the history of physics, both in its patriarchal, cultish aspects and in the nobility of its endeavours ever since that founding with his God Particle fantasies and his moment when, for the first time in western history, Pythagoras took off

المكذا من الأصل

مكذا من الأصل

Edith Sitwell's literary archive reveals a generous, eccentric life, writes Diana Souhami

Selected Letters of Edith Sitwell edited by Richard Greene, Virago, £20

en she was 17. Edith Sitwell was sent to. pawn her mother's false teeth. She got 10/5d for them. Whisky (it was 1904) was 12/6d a bottle. Her mother, Lady Ida Sitwell, had a drink habit and uncertain morals and in 1915 spent three months in Holloway for fraud. Sir George Reresby Sitwell MP, historian, tyrant and Edith's father, owned 6,000 acres and the family estate Renishaw, near Chesterfield, where Edith and her brotbers Osbert and Sacheverell endured childhood.

"I don't believe there is another family in England who bave had parents like ours," Edith wrote to Osbert. "Please see to it that I am cremated. The other thing would be 100 like living with father. They called him Ginger, the Red Death, the old beast and the old horror. Edith said he spent his life dodging the taxman. She and her brothers suspected he was finally murdered by a banker called Woog who embezzled their inheritance.

She said her "nervous system was ruined for life" before she was ten. Such comfort as there was came from her gov-erness Helen Rootham, and as adults they lived together in a London flat. She resisted visiting Renishaw "in case they get a grip on me again". When Helen got cancer. Edith's letters to and about her were full of despair and generosity.

In 1970 the previous editor of Edith Sitwell's letters, John Lehmann, was not permitted to include any to ber mother, father or brothers. It was a fatal omission. Her formidable parents and herlove of her brothers - their shared horror of "the Gingers", their praise for one another and their mutual protectiveness. - were at the root of her identity as a woman and poet. They are all dead now and their executor, Francis Sitwell, Sacheverell's son, has given permission for her letters to family to be published.

Most letters in this volume are at the Harry Ransom Research Centre in Texas. Mr Ransom's oil money has purchased swathes of Britain's literary heritage. Documents are kept in sub-zero conditions to prolong life. Visiting readers are vetted; special gloves supplied.

No corresponding discipline has been given to packaging this volume. A rogue quotation mark in the first paragraph points to hard work for the reader. The editor, Richard Greene, a Canadian academic, was an archivist for Edith Situell's literary estate. He has sifted thousands of letters. His choice is unearth them.

Concepts and events - generosity, naïvety, love, money, fame, sickness -have to be mined. Notes are crammed as end pages and I got tired of rifting back and forth. Companion volumes are needed to make contextual sense: Osbert Sitwell's memoir, Left Hand, Right Hand! and Victoria Glendinning's biography. A Unicom Among Lions.

It is a pity that there are no pictures: Edith's Elizabethan stature, with beringed hands and turbaned head, matched the grandness of Renishaw



Edith Sitwell: painted by Pavel Tchelitchew to resemble 'a dismal doge'

BRIDGEMAN - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Behind the façade

Beaton's photographs captured her. There are letters to him of praise and affection. The Russian painter Pavel Tchelitchew, with whom she fell in love. informed and wide ranging. Dramas did a portrait which made her look like are buried here, but effort is needed to a dismal doge. Most of his letters are omitted. They met at a lunch given by Gertrude Stein and Alice B Toklas in 1927. Edith was 40; Tchelitehew, 29. Their correspondence is sealed at the Yale University Library until 2000. Alice B Toklas said "Edith will go over for the hreaking of the seals".

A few letters have escaped this emhargo. They show Edith's naïvety and hurt. She admired his paintings, gave him money, encouraged others to buy his work. But Tchelitchew - in love with a pianist, Alan Tanner - attacked her as an artist, told her he wanted to slap her face,

and belied her vulnerability. Cecil have her kneel at his feet. "Russians only Carson McCullers: "What a great poet's really like idiots, prostitutes and dressmakers," she wrote.

tatory style. A diary entry of Una Troubridge, Radelyffe Hall's partner, in 1924 was of "a bedlam afternoon with Edith Sitwell shouting down a megaphone" at the Poetry Society. At a hostile reception, Edith felt like a vast hird that had blundered into a room, hitting its head on the ceiling. She called critics of Gertrude Stein's "hermetic" writing "vulgar little clothes moths". Her letters to Stein are full of praise.

She was effusive to women writers whose work she enjoyed. On reading The Heart is a Lonely Hunter. she wrote to

mind and eye and senses you have." About a poem by HD (Hilda Doolittle) Edith thought herself the doyenne of she wrote. Yours is the supreme apple modernism. Her audience she called tree, the flowering apple". And she was "small and discerning" and she was hurt warm with gratitude to HD's wealthy

She sent letters about whatever was on her mind. To the editor of the Daily Mail she railed at the "unceasing barking of dogs" at night. To Stanley Kauffman. editor of Ballantine Books, she gave convoluted apology for cutting him off when he phoned; she thought he was a journalist hounding her about giving a lunch party for Marilyn Monroe. And days before she died, the Times Literary Supplement published her outburst about cruelty to ponies in Belgian slaughter houses. These letters range wide, pointers to a creative. eccentric, generous life.

Painting pictures on land and sea

Andrew

a passenger on

the same route

that took the

dying Keats to

Rome 7

Carol Rumens enjoys some poetic notes from the margins

Salt Water by Andrew Motion, Faber, £7.99, A Painted Field by Robin Robertson. Picador, £6.99

A lthough both authors were born in the early-to-mid 1950s, these two poetry collections spring from widely different positions on the career-graph. Robin Robertson's book is his first, and if it seems a belated debut for a literary professional, perhaps Robertson's own experience as a publisher has taught him the virtue of caution. Not surprisingly, the poems are carefully crafted, but the manner is tense and alert, his technique never slick.

Andrew Motion, on the other hand. seems at his most relaxed in this, his eighth collection. The poet seems enough at ease with himself and the limits of his genre to enjoy the sense of mastery. His earliest influences were the so-called war poets; Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Edward Thomas. And sometimes it has seemed that Motion's own quest has been to shape himself into their late-20th century equivalent - an English war-poet with-

out a war, but with access to plentiful imagery of death and disaster, as well as a richer vein of painful per-

sonal memories. Motion's desire to push Motion sailed as ferent camera angles. poetry heyond the lyric boundaries he inhahited comfortably in his first book. The Pleasure Steamers. led him to the extended narrative sequence, a genre he has virtually made his own. But sometimes the writing itself could become something of a battlefield. The sequence "Joe Soap", for instance, which dominated his last collection, combined elements of the

murder-mystery and war-story with excur- Edinburgh now: "The Japanese tourist sions into a kind of magic realism.

Motion has worked hard to make prose and poetry pull together, perhaps wishing to synthesise his varied talents - as poet. novelist and hiographer. The experiments have never been less than interesting, but there's a lot to recommend in Salt Water's rediscovery of more concentrated narrative and lyric forms. In spite of the odd Larkinesque splash of acid petulance, the overriding impression is of poems able to be "surprised by joy" (sometimes in animal form) and to celebrate imaginative fecundity: "Retriever-dog winds/in a clear track/raced forwards and backward laying a new idea at his feet/again and again." ("Goethe in the Park").

Even with his "negative capability" refreshed. Motion has not abandoned all major construction work. Thematically linked by water, his three sequences are like a sea on which the individual poems bob as confidently as well-made boats. "Fresh

Water" and "Salt Water" are composed entirely in verse, which may he why they are more fluent, brisk and compact than usual. "Sailing to Italy" is largely in prose (though the occasional poem sends up a fragile shoot) and, again, there's the pleasant sense of a medium allowed to do what it does

Motion sailed as a passenger on the same route that took the dying Keats to Rome. Perhaps there's something faintly stunt-ish about the whole idea; a biographer shouldn't need to live part of his subject's life. Mystical hints that the author is seeking to "meet" Keats are a shade tiresome. But overall, this is travelogue with the vividness of the hest kind of letter-writing (such as Keats's own t. It immerses us in physical reality, showing us the ropes and oilskins and winches, the gales and engine-failure. as well as psychological effects – particu-larly the tantalising failure (typical of those whose art is to stay the moment) to inhahit the happiness of the present.

Rohin Robertson gives an occasional nod towards Heaney ("Enter the torc of trench and rampart") and to Tom Paulin ("Sunlight glints/like mica schist in granite"). But the writer to whom he seems closest, sharing something of the fough-lyric mode and lively visual imagination, is Norman Mac-Caig. Even when working in a largish structure - such as his Ovid imitation "The Flaying of Marsyas" - he achieves narrative progress mostly by cutting from

image to image. The effect is of a disquietingly obsessive. jackal-like circling of the flaved torso – a cinematic detachment as various metaphors are tried like dif-

Rohertson uses a collage technique in his sequence Camera Ohscura, which tells the tragic story of the Edinhurgh photographer and failed painter. David Octavius Hill. It inter-cutimagined diary and letter extracts with snatches of folksong, haiku-like apercus. love-poems (haunting, if a little unfocused) and sharpeyed documentary that finds humour as well as dolour in

places his camera on a post/backs away. and stands./smiling vigorously. The small machine flashes: clicks/I hear the shutter's/granular slither/as a spade in wer soil/while he would hear: sha'shin.

As these lines suggest. Robertson has an ear as good as his eye. There is rich consonantal and alliterative music to he heard throughout A Painted Field. While not uninterested in matters of national identity. as the sequence reveals. Robertson registers his own identity most tellingly through his poems' aural patterning.

His poems are not cries from margins -

if we mean regional margins - and only occasionally satirical (see "Sunny Memories"). But the fact that Robertson is not writing in the "deafening silence" which obtained for MacCaig's generation (the phrase was used by Ian Crichton Smith, as recently as 1988) has no doubt helped secure the work's unusual poise, the courage of its personal obsessions.

Voluptuary and pervert dies the death of a dog



Peter Parker is intrigued by a scandalous family history

The Architect of Desire by Suzannah Lessard, Weidenfeld, £18.99

uzannah Lessard's greatgrandfather, Stanford White, was the most flambourse. was the most flamboyant partner of McKim, Mead and White, architects to the plutocracy during New York's "Gilded Age". A figure of boundless energy and appetites, White lived in enormous style and ran up even more enormous debts. By 1906 his bealth and finances were equally depleted, and although only 53, he would probably have died soon of natural causes had not a millionaire called Harry K Thaw shot him dead at Madison Square Garden, a building White designed. Thaw announced he was avenging his wife, a young woman called Evelyn Nesbit who as a 16-year-old had been drugged and seduced by the architect. Vanity Fair reported the case under the headline: "Stanford White, Voluptuary and Pervert, Dies the Death of a Dog".

Lessard grew up on the family Long Island, so that although his name was rarely mentioned his presence was always felt. "In the beautiful environment of the family past," she writes, "there was a magnificent figure who had gone out of control in a way destructive to those on his course - including his family - and ultimately to himself. Behind my memories of a blissful childhood in a beautiful place, there were also destructive forces (bat were blind and out of control, but unacknowledged. Yet to this inner truth and all its ramifications I had no access. This was the great role of family history to me.

This is family history as catharsis. Lessard has a fascinating story to tell, and at times she does this with great skill, notably in the chapter about "The Astor Orphans", an

engagingly batty clutch of aunts and uncles. If the whole book had been written with this stylish clarity it would deserve the accolades heaped upon it in America, but a sentence heginning "When I became
literary ..." unwittingly signals
what has gone wrong.
What becoming literary means
is demonstrated by the

subsequent passage, in which Lessard describes the moment in ber thirties when she suddenly became aware of her beloved grandmother's mortality: "I began 10 harvest her presence as though it were a field of flax, and I were gathering it into baskets. retting it, combing it, spinning it. and weaving it, until I felt I had something I could hold, and take away with me, like the pillow that I was embroidering. There was safety for me within the atmosphere of serene crashing. I found grounding in that dizzying environment of orbiting things: it was safe, but it wasn't, but it was. But it was." Lessard frequently claborates images and ideas into

this sort of ineantatory muzziness. Her ingenious notion of

relating Stanford White's architecture to his moral character is similarly spoiled by overemphasis. His remodelling of a sham Norman castle involved extensive use of "lush pink marble", a material of which Lessard became uncomfortably aware when she attended the Catholic woman's college which subsequently occupied the

building. The marble "embarrassed" the students, she claims, "because it was so unrestrainedly sensuous, so softsceming, with an alternately swirling and mostled grain. The "voluptuary pink" of this "quasibordello environment" may have seemed inappropriate for nuns. but then White had designed it not for a religious order hut a newspaper editor.

Lessard suggests that White's buildings "seduce", "ensnare". are "powerfully sensual": "Behind the aesthetic sophistication of a Stanford White interior is the hlindly voracious, irresponsible force. both personal and that of a whole class, a whole nation out of control." You could equally well stand inside one of his buildings

and primarily be aware of order and proportion. It depends what you are looking for.

Lessard reveals that she was repeatedly fondled by an uncle and that she and her sisters were molested by her father, while another family member was raped by a cousin during a party. She contends that this incidence of sexual irregularity is somehow related to Stanford White's compulsive preying on under-age women. But her father, after all. was not a White descendant, but had married into the family.

The book ends with an unusual "moment of grace". when the family silence is breached during what amounts to a group-therapy session at which Lessard and her sisters confront the past and achieve adulthood.

Mirabella magazine, to which the author is a contributing editor, said of this book that it is "so crushingly elegant that the act of reading was like running your cheek across a velvet nap". Anyone who recognises a distinction between literature and a party-frock will be less easily impressed.

A gripping saga of great passion ... sustained, impassioned and uplifting' THE TIMES



His bestselling novel of the Dark Ages

NOW IN PAPERBACK

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Paperbacks_



By Christopher Hirst

Writing Home by Alan Bennett (Faber, £6.99) Now in a nice, chunky formut, with a cheerful, crayoned self-portrait on the cover, this edition of Bennett's best-seller has been expanded to include diary selections from 1991 to 1995 and an introduction to The Madness of George III Bennett describes the crumbling of his qualms ahout historical inaccuracy in the film script. "By the third draft I would have taken the King to Blackpoul if I had thought is would have helped"). The book stands up wonderfully well - always perceptive, often very funny, occasionally shocking. As Mr B remarks of Russell Harty: "He had learned ... there was nothing that could not be said and no one to whom one could not say it." Reading Bennett's bits and bobs is a pure joy.

Real China by John Gittings (Pocket Books. £7.99) Despite its sensational sub-title. "From Cannibalism to Karaoke", this is an insightful and learned survey of "Middle China" - the backwaters scarcely touched by Dong's economic revolution.

In the "heavily disadvantaged" Guangxl province. Gittings alleges that an outbreak of cannibalism took place Juring the Cultural Revolution prompted both by revenge and a helief in the therapeutic value of vertain parts of the human hody".

On the karaoke side, he reveals that 30 old songs praising Mao have recently been re-released and "set to a disco beat". Dismissing Deng's ambition to transform Middle China into a mainland Hong Kong. Gittings bleakly predicts

that this region is likely to become another Third World country "on a vastly larger scale".

The Lost Victory by Correlli Barnett (Pan, £8.99) This is history with a passion. The case which Barnett makes against the 1945 Labour administration is hard to answer. He claims that in refusing to face up to Britain's diminished status, the Attlee cahinet frittered away the fruits of victory. Despite nur "impoverished. obsolescent" economy, the government's strategy was to persist in the ruinous make-believe that the UK was a first-rate world power and at the same time pursue the dream of New Jerusalem". This resulted in a leeching-away of the funds desperately needed for modernising industry. Though Barnett's polemic is flawed the liberalism he condemns also produced postwar Germany's economic miracle this furious book is essential reading.

Mukiwa by Peter Godwin (Picador, £7.99) In this prizewinning memoir, Godwin describes growing up in Rhodesia (Mukiwa means "white man" in Shona) with the vividness of a great novelist. Reading it is like being there. When very young in the early Sixties, he saw at first hand the results of the guerrilla campaign. (A doctor's son, he had the task of spraying flies during the post-mortems.) At the time, this merely added interest to the life of a juvenile colonial Godwin has an astonishing gift for recall, from school fights to the killing of a cohra. Later, the mood darkens. Alone with lan Smith, he contemplates assassination. His sister is accidentally killed by troops. He encounters the atrocity of civil war. Despite the horror, this remains a powerful account of both



Kate Atkinson: taking liberties with fictional method

Black forest gâteau

Penelope Lively enters a woodland time-warp

Human Croquet

by Kate Atkinson, Doubleday, £15.99

he opening of Kate Atkinson's first novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum, echoed Tristram Shandy. Her second begins "Call me Isobel ... "Such devices can be seen as chutzpah or intertextuality, according to taste. My own feeling was - why shouldn't she? Intertextual references litter the pages of this vivid and intriguing novel - to Shakespeare especially. This can be a heavy-handed method right sinker, indeed - hut not here.

Kate Atkinson's touch is deft, and the story fizzes and crackles along with so many twists and surns that it is well able to carry the freight of Shakespearean allusion and the airy references to higher physics which are integral to the content.

This is a novel about time. The spacetime continuum, worm-holes in space, wrinkles in time - all those unimaginable concepts that lend themselves so nicely to fictional exploration. The past in the present is the theme here: hardly a new one, but seldom done with more panache of originality.

As in Behind the Scenes at the Museum, the central matter is the dire family secret which preys upon childhood. Isobel and her brother Charles. are mewed up in Arden, the sepulchral suburban home in which they are reared by their dire aunt Vinny after the apparent death of their father and disap-

pearance of the mother Eliza, for whom

they pathetically yearn.
What happened to Eliza - the how and the why - are the threads which weave in and out of a craftily constructed narrative that takes every possible lib-erty with sequential tale-telling. The novel's structure reflects the slippery nature of time. Hints and clues of what will happen, or may have happened, are cumningly scattered - unohtrusive at the moment hut rearing their heads in retrospect. A broken-heeled shoe found by the children in dreadful aunt Vinny's wardrobe seems to have been Eliza's and strikes a sinister chord; Charles's red hair reflects neither parent; and the adults flinch at certain references which ring alarm hells in the reader's head, but to which the children are oblivious.

The suburb in which Arden stands is huilt on the site of ancient woodland, which itself descends from the primeval forest. The streets are named after trees and the forest theme pervades the book. The crucial scene after which Eliza is seen no more takes place during a family picnic in nearby Boscrambe Wood, all that is left of the ancient woodland. And the family itself is the surviving stock of the Fairfaxes, who built their Elizabethan manor in the woods and whose fortunes subsequently declined to the proprietorship of the high-street grocery.

This sounds like a swerve into Mills & Boon territory. Never fear - if so, it is all a part of the deliberate and larky

referential style. At one point, Isobel turns into a tree when pursued by a posse of drunken yobs. Or she may have done - hecause Isobel is an unreliable witness, and no wonder, given her trau-matic youth. She finds herself periodically swept into time-warps and walks into a vanished inn or contemplates a former incarnation of her aunt in a bedroom at Arden. She is caught up in a rerunning of a single day in which events turn out differently each time, a motif that raises the fashionable concept of alternative universes. Have I stepped into the same river twice? she wonders

 overtaken again by intertextuality. Isohel's is the narrative voice - an acerbic, knowing voice, except that what she doesn't know is the awful truth of adult deceit. But there is also a detached voice which fills us in on events about which Isobel cannot know. Plenty of liberties are taken with fictional method. On the whole it works, except for a

chunk of medieval fantasy at the end. As a participant character Isobel rather fades into the background. Kate Atkinson is excellent at subsidiary figures, ranging from devastating vignettes to the Greek chorus of the fearful Baxter family next door, where wife-hattering and incest flourish. The strength of this clever, adventurous novel lies in its careful meshing of a compelling story with excursions into fantasy, experiment and outrageous grand guignol. It's something of a tour de force.

Amis is as good as a smile

Kevin should never have been felled by that coffee table, says Hugo Barnacle

Stuff by Joseph Connolly, Faber, £14.99

t always takes more effort to get something started than to keep it moving, whether it's a novel or a wheelbarrow. But Joseph Connolly tries a fraction too hard with the opening of Stuff: Emily hit Kevin with a coffee table - just upped and did it. And was she now content with leaving the man writhing around on the ground (his eyes quite dulled yet lit with surprise, all overlaid with a thick and dripping, big brown slice of fear)?"

There is no telling what Connolly means by this. In what conceivable sense does fear correspond to fried bread or anything else that comes in dripping slices, brown or otherwise? A further slight problem is that we soon learo that Emily, an interior designer, keeps all her tables covered in knick-knacks whose disarrangement she cannot tolerate. So she wouldn't swing the coffee table at her husband even if she had the strength which, not being a giantess, she clearly can't have. Perhaps we should allow it as comic

exaggeration.
Connolly's style sorts itself
out after that. Surff is his third comic novel in as many years and he is becoming highly accomplished. The black farce of the storyline recalls Tom Sharpe, the indignant narration recalls Kingsley Amis, In fact, Connolly . reproduces some of Amis's favourite mannerisms more or less exactly.

Raymond, whose son is going out with Kevin and Emily's daughter, drops by. Kevin had gone to the lavatory, now. He had actually said, much to Raymond's wondering disbelief, that the time had come for a man to do what a man had to do. No arch or roguish smile, no John Wayne accent, not even the merest trace of an incipient inverted comma: just said it said it as if no one in the world had ever said it before."

This unblushing indulgence in stereotypical behaviour is a key trait of the characters Amis labelled "stooges". The difference is that Amis would probably have gone for the John Wayne accent to pile on the annoyance. He hated his stooges, whereas poor old useless Kevin is, oddly enough, quite a sympathetic character.

But the annoyance soon builds up all right. Emily's decor starts it off. Raymond seethes at the swagged curtains, the table lamps made from ginger jars that had never seen ginger, matey", the dummy obelisk and the bowl of silverwrapped dragees you mustn't eat. Amis always liked using pretentious and fiddly ornaments of costume or furnishing to get his characters and readers into a lather of helpless fury.

By the time Raymond's son and Emily's daughter appear. giggling at nothing in a deeply irritating way while Kevin utters non-sequiturs and Emily "acid-sweetly" threatens more domestic violence, Raymond is approaching true Amisian apoplexy. He "just turned away before all the blood in his body coursed up into his neck and blasted right out of his nostrils". Raymond even thinks, "If I had a Bren gun handy ... " In similar vein, Kevin later thinks of his wife as "Obergruppenführer Emily". Amis was inordinately fond of these old-time military allusions, but Raymond and Kevin, still in their forties, are a hit too young for them. And Raymond's comment on women ("I mean, what maybe they're all born a bit doolally and as the years progress - through periods of instability and paranoia they all end up as terminally deranged") comes of obvious ancestry.

Imitative as it is, the book has enough energy to take on a life of its own and is often laugh-out-loud funny. Kevin's mortal terror of everyday situations, like talking to people or going into restaurants, is very well handled. The phrasemaking is apt and unshowy. The Sharpeish plot, a calculatedly absurd round of adultery, murder, insanity, husinesses going hust and houses burning down, creates an exhilarating hysteria. Although, at 330 pages, it goes on too long. Stuff is better than Sharpe's own current work, and maybe

seriousness to the whole thing. The kids' incessant giggling, for instance, turns out to be for a reason quite opposite to the sexual smugness you first assume: a problem they won't discuss has left them permanently emharrassed with each other. Many of the characters who start off as caricatures or monsters acquire unexpected depth. while the ones who appear most normal to begin with sometimes prove to be howling nutters - but this never falls into a predictable pattern, so the story keeps its edge, its heightened atmosphere and its weird conviction.

There is a useful core of



he best audiobooks need an I author and reader both suited to the medium, but occasionally the quality of one can compensate for the other's failings. The to-ings and froings in time of Peter Ackroyd's Hawksmoor (HarperCollins. 3hrs, £8.99) are hard to hold, and the language sounds more

overwrought than on the page But Derek Jacobi romps through the roccoco phrasing with such competence that it's hard to stop listening to this tale of a modern detective's perception of a 17th-century architect's devilry.

childhood and Africa.

is, by contrast, easy on the ear. read Fever Pitch (HarperCollins, 3hrs, £8,99) almost scored an own goal: his voice is amateurish and uneven. Persevere. He gains in confidence, and the book explores male obsession just

Audiobooks



Nick Hornby's demotic style But whoever got Hornby to

as well as High Fidelity.

Christina Hardyment

Independent choice: literature for lads



Spliced girls

Maya Jaggi explores conflicting desires in new Amerindian literature

By Robert Hanks

or a while, it looked as though masculinity was in crisis – confused, embarrassed, uncertain what it wanted. But to judge by the latest crop of paperback-original novels, all that has changed. Now men have sorted out what they want, and their list of demands turns out to be surprisingly easy to fill: they're not interested in successful careers or steady girlfriends (none of the first-person narrators in these books has either) so long as they can have alcohol, drugs, punk rock, a modicum of violence and occasional sex with their best mate's ex-girlfriend.

It helps, too, if the young lady how shall we put this? - is prepared 10 motor in reverse gear. To put it plainly: most of these books share the conviction that anal intercourse (with a woman - all these men are unequivocally hetero) is the greatest treat a hoy can have.

Perhaps we should start by mentioning the exception to this rule: John L Williams's Faithless (Serpent's Tail. £8.99). Williams is best known as an advocate of hardboiled US crime fiction, so I halfexpected his first novel to be a homegrown version. Mereifully. Faithless is decidedly British, in its weary, self-deprecating tone and its faithfully observed setting - London

in the early Eighties. The narrator, Jeff, a one-time aspiring rock musician, gets involved in a misguided attempt to hlackmail a former mate who is now a big star. It all goes horribly wrong, and he ends up in trouble with far greedier and more vicious criminals. (The analogy with Thatcherism is blarant but not over-schematic.)

True, the book does have its anal side. Jeff works in a record-shop (it's presumably this, and the action in the vicinity of Highbury, that the blurb-writer had in mind when comparing Williams to Nick Hornby), which provides the excuse for some tedious rock trivia. The particularity of Williams's London settings and his unaffectedly witty prose are compensations. They look especially attractive next to the hugely affected, would-he witty prose of Charles Kennedy Scott's Low Alcohol (Headline Review, £8.99).

It's worth quoting a paragraph from Scott: "So where am I going? Yes, you may well ask: Where am I going? And, if you see me walking the streets with my aimless face, my off-centre hairstyle, my worn clothes and my shiny new hoots, you may well wonder: where is he going?

Well, he'd have to be going somewhere pretty bloody interesting to justify that blather. Sadly, despite some nicely turned moments of farce, Low Alcohol is a dull and profoundly annoying satirical fantasy in the manner of Martin Amis, full of urban angst, millennial portents and significant names. Scott's imagination falls between the stools of merciless precision and

bludgeoning savagery. The names, for example, are neither overtly funny (remember Caduta Massi in Amis's Money") of blatantly meaningful (as in John Self). So our apathetic, self-pitying



Pick of the week Faithless by John L Williams

narrator is called Doug Down; he is haunted by a paranoid woman calling herself Lucia de Londres and his best mate (whose ex-girlfriend he eventually shags) is a soi-disant comedian called Andy Cipolin. The ex-girlfriend herself is Annis, which turns out to be a nickname derived from her favourite sexual practice. No prizes for guessing what that is (in Amis's London Fields, Nicola Six was similarly inclined). "Most girls like it." Annis tells Doug, "though

they prefer not to admit it." John McKenzic's Are You Boys Cyclists? (Serpent's Tail, £8.99) is more critical of male fantasies; which is not to say they're not on offer. "Don't worry." Matt. the narrator, reassures the reader: "This book isn't Hardly elevating, but certainly going to miss being part of the wank entertaining. That's how boys like it. from the incipiently rebellious mutual illusions and envies.

industry if I can help it." It is, you'll gather, a self-referential book, mixing a narrative about boxing, drugs, unemployment and sex in the Edinburgh of 1977 with musings on writing and reading books. Matt isn't far wrong when he describes it as "a cross between Charles Bukowski. Henry Miller, Jeanette Winterson and Kurt Vonnegut".

The climax arrives with twin orgies of violence and sex - intercut descriptions of a boxing match and a marathon sex session with Matt's best mate's ex, culminating in, um, a trip to the moon. It's hard to say if this is intended as male wishfulfilment, or some sort of criticism. I'm not sure, either, whether this book is genuinely joyless and solipsistic or just pretending. Mark Blackaby's Look What

They've Done to the Blues (Gollancz £9.99) is straightforward wish fulfilment: the hero, Charlie (a professional thug who's been to university), combines a middle-class frame of reference with workingclass credibility. He is good-looking, tough, clever, irresistible to women and destined to he hugely rich, if he can collect the proceeds from an old job - a task that provides the vestigial plot. Even with these advantages, he contrives to he one of life's losers (thankfully, or the book would be unbearably smug). It's his ex who gets shagged by his best mate, and he doesn't get the ultimate sexual treat but merely watches a

Arranged Marriage and The Mistress of Spices by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Black Swan, £6.99, and Doubleday, £12.99

s a new generation of British Asian writers – including Hanif Kureishi, Meera Syal and Bidisha - charts "inbetweenness", there is a parallel burgeoning across the Atlantic. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is among a growing number of young Ameri-can authors of Indian descent (such as Anjana Appachana, Indira Ganesan, Zia Jaffrey and Ameena Meer) who explore the meeting of two worlds through a perspective that derives from both.

Arranged Marriage won the American Book Award in 1995. Its short stories chart territory carved out in the fiction of Bharati Mukherjee (also Calcutta-horn and Californiabased): the "immigrant dream" as it rubs against US reality; the fear and exhilaration as boundaries erode and traditions crumhie; the lure and losses of rulebreaking. Despite a title that threatens uniformity, the arranged marriages are merely emblems of stricture. The focus is on women; the freedoms and illicit desires that a new life in "Amreeka" can stir in those shackled by inherited roles. Characters range from the traditional to the cosmopolitan,

to those "Indian yet not Indian" creatures mocked on the subcontinent as "ABCDs" ("American-born Confused Desis").

As America tempts - "the neon Budweiser emblem winking on and off like a risky invitation" - a divorced woman quits spice-grinding for fastfood take-outs, a bride ditches saris to secrete her jeans from policing in-laws, and a daughter rehearses the words to tell a distant mother of a white boyfriend. Transplanted couples' expectations collide, as men revert to the "prehistoric values" a mother warns her US-raised daughter against.

Myths of womanhood control, but can sometimes liberate. In "The Maid Servant's Story", a woman views an aunt's tale as a warning: "A preview of my own life which I thought I had fashioned so cleverly, so differently from my mother's, but which is only a repetition, in a different raga, of her tragic song. Perhaps it is like this for all daughters, doorned to choose for ourselves. a lofty compassion to the "lost over and over, the men who, brown faces": "Garment fac-

have destroyed our mothers." for the American dream, eyeing the "Paki-hashing" of America's own "dotbusters" ried woman's forehead) and fatal muggings in the 7-Eleven. Resisting facile hinaries of East versus West, she unpicks

The modest realism of Arranged Marriage makes the failure of The Mistress of Spices all the more puzzling. In the novel, an old, villageborn woman, once kidnapped by pirates and taught the secrets of spice-magic on a tropical island, runs a store in Oakland, California. Chatting to her wares ("Spices, what does this mean?"), Nayantara, or "star seer" divines migrants' ills and desires: "Green cards, promotions, girls with lotus eyes." Since her powers rest on celibacy, when she falls for a young Amerindian, doses herself with a youth elixir and beds him, the spices wreak revenge via the San Andreas fault. "Spices, I caused it," she moans, as the earth moves.

This drivel is threaded with "real" lives: Haroun, a servant turned taxi driver, Ahuja, a battered wife: Jagjit, a bullied schoolboy. None rises above cliché as the author attempts tories smelling of starch and Divakaruni is no apologist sweat and immigration raids, women handcuffed and piled

crying into vans ..." The compulsion to address (after the red hindi on a mar- a white American reader, latent in the stories, becomes hlatant as the novel strives to explain. But pandering with fake folklore to New Age myswith irony her characters' ticism leaves its characters

مكذا من الأصل

travel & outdoors

Ski Scotland Homework as holiday ...11 Ireland's extremes 15 France: an A-Z of the British invasion 16/17

Born to be wild

The Omo valley in Ethiopia could be the last wilderness in Africa. By Caroline Seed

ou like Utopia?"

endless series of friendly faces cheerfully mispronouncing their country's name. Some of these faces belong to handsomely attired Orthodox priests, some to white-robed pilgrims, some to shepherd boys, some to tall, beautiful women with beads in their hair. But in the Omo valley, a remote area in the far south west near the Kenyan and Sudanese borders, the people bave only recently Ethiopia exists, and they ask a dif-

You have razor blade?" I eyed the ridged network of garish scars decorating their bodies and flapped a hand rather urgently to our guide, Alex, who ambled over with a grin. As usual be was prepared for anything, and handed me a bag bulging with strings of brightly coloured beads: much betple loved them. We were instant hits. Faces lit with humour, the

fcrent question.

The bright-eyed and endiessly

skinny, wiry fellows not

over 18. Must be expert

daily. Orphans preferred.

edition of Work Your Way

Around the World begins.

Fortunately the vacancies

filled - the advertisement

was placed in 1860 by the

Pony Express. The book's

author, Susan Griffith,

museum in Washington

DC. But some of Britain's

enterprises are reporting

alarming staff shortages.

among the world's best-

paying industries, hut a

including board and

of England or Wales

seems a reasonably

attractive prospect. Yet

Edwina Edwards of the

Youth Hostels Association

says she is having trouble

filling the 400 vacancies

for assistant wardens this

wage of £360 per month

lodging in a beautiful part

Travel has never been

found the poster at a

present-day travel

in question have long been.

Wages \$25 per week."
This is how the new

manently at war with the Hamar, the Hamar with their cousins the Karo; and the Burni fight both the Karo and the Surma whenever they can. The women scarify their chests to beautify themselves, but the men do so to indicate their having killed an enemy or a dangerous animal.

Few areas remain in Africa that can be described as true wilderness, but the valley of the wide, smoothflowing Omo River is a good candidate - a lost world, rendered almost uninhabitable by the tsetse fly. Here spectacular landscapes are unhlemished by man, and huge herds of eland and buffalo roam become aware that such a thing as across the unspoiled savanna grassland, along with giraffe, elephant, zebra, lion and leopard. Unused to tourists, the animals are wild and shy, but despite having been warned that game was far less visible than in other East African countries, we were not disappointed.

Alex, a professional hunter, has an

infectious enthusiasm for the country as well as an impressive knowledge of its wildlife, and cheerfully woke us for each morning's safari at 5am. Spotting wildlife in the grey light of dawn was extremely dif-ficult. Alex patiently pointed to a clump of dry, spindly bushes in the distance. Yawning, I picked up my binoculars to see the two enormous brown eyes of a gerenuk - a slim antelope - staring straight at me. a single epidemic could obliterate the horizon, which turned into a massive herd of tiang - related to wildebeest - browsing peacefully.

Gradually, as I became more aware of what to look for, curved sticks poking into the skyline materialised into oryx, rocks into baboon, and hushes into kudu, waterbuck, oribi and hartebeest. The hird life was magnificent: we saw secretary birds, bustards and great flocks of carmine bec-eaters as well as an abundance of vultures and hirds of prey. By mid-morning the game would have vanished, to find shelter from the broiling beat, and we would return to camp.

The Omo camp is currently the only permanent one in the area, and is set on the banks of the river, pitched in the shade of tall trees occasionally inhabited by a colony of colobus monkeys. Billed as a luxury camp, it has all the required trappings: twin beds, flush lavatories. pedestal basins and hot showers. housed beneath a dozen neatly thatched roofs. This is usually a hunting camp, but the owner is happy to accommodate tourists on photographic and walking trips. It is possible to hire a vehicle and driver and travel independently, but the



flat tyres and needed to change our fuel filter twice during our two-day drive back to Addis Ababa.

Safaris in the early evening are perhaps the most idyllic. The air is warm and soft as velvet, the sky a bazy lavender. Standing high on the back of our jeep, we bounced across the baked brown grasses, negotiating herds of gazelle and tiang.

As night drew in, Deganu, our tracker, scanned around the vehicle with a spotlight. Suddenly another world took shape: the day shift of antelope was transposed to the night shift of predators. Our first excitement was spying a genet cat. a miniature leopard with a tail as thick as a man's wrist; then a civet cat darted behind some acacia trees. Fresh hyena tracks padded down the dusty track and African barn owls swooped overhead. More sinister were the dozens of red eyes that glimmered malevolently along the softly silted hanks of the Omo, and after counting 18 crocodiles oppo-site our camp I wondered about the group of Italian tourists (the only other tourists we saw; we'd spotted earlier swimming in the river.

The most vivid memory is the sighting of my first leopard. At 4am, we were huddled shivering in the jeep, the air chill, when Deganu

pard, leopard." It was pitch dark and he swung the lamp to the right as Alex stamped on the hrakes. Suddenly a liquid silk form of black and gold froze in its tracks, just yards away. The leopard's eyes stared at us, stunned, captured by Deganu's lamp for perhaps 10 sec-

The evening air is warm and soft as velvet, the sky a hazy lavender 7

onds, and then the powerful muscles flexed and he sprang into the blackness.

We'd risen earlier than usual in order to visit the Mursi tribe, who are renowned for their practice of inserting large, circular clay plates behind the lower lips of their women. These are purely symbolic, and the size of the lip plate determines the size of the hride price. A large lip plate, for example, will bring in 50 head of cattle. And 49 cattle can buy seven Kalashnikov

of all in this part of the world.

It was a six-hour hone-rattling drive to the nearest Mursi village. punctuated briefly by stops to view buffalo, warthog and lesser kudu. There were ample antelope but giraffe were scarce: not only are they easier to kill than other game. but the Mursi relish their meat. On the edge of the Mago National Park we spotted the bleached remains of a dead elephant, picked so clean that it appeared to have been there for a decade, not just a month. The Mursi, Alex told us, were partial to elephant meat, 100.

Sweat-drenched and covered in insect bites, we finally arrived at a clutch of thatched buts shimmering beneath the searing midday sun. Two tall warriors stood un the horizon with their spears, but otherwise all was still, silent. Then, the instant our jeep entered the village compound, the silence gave way to a deafening uproar.

the huts and raced for us, shouting like to my left calf.

surrounded by an agitated, excited crowd who grabbed at us, yanking our T-shirts and pinching our skin. their eyes feverish. "Photo, photo,

real currency of the area

lop vol**u**me, waving their arms

100 miles

SUDAN

UGANDA

photo! they shricked, fighting each other to get to us, thrusting warthog tusks into our pockets and clay plates into our hands. "Ten birr. Ten birr." They snapped their fingers in our faces, refusing to take their wares back unless we paid for them. The deal when you visit the Mursi

Still are warriors: the Karo, Mursi and

Hamar tribes are permanently at war with

each other. The clay lip plate worn by Mursi

women, top, determines the bride's price: a

large lip plate equates to SO head of cattle

- enough for seven Kalashnikov rifles, the

is that if you take a photograph of them, you either pay them or give them a present. Of course, every one of the 60 villagers wanted a gift for themselves, une for their mother and one for each of their children. and the whole event rapidly turned into a bun fight. At one point a sixfoot tall woman was tugging my right hand, while another woman was pulling my left in the opposite direction, both yelling "photo!" at the tops of their voices. A small boy. Swarms of people erupted out of about five years old, clung limpet-

furiously. The next second we were - engine I was beside him before you could say "10 birr". Because no matter how statuesque the women. how endearing the children, one hour of the Mursi was quite enough;

KENYA

SDMALIA

Ogaden

As we roared off we passed a land cruiser full of Americans coming the other way. I was surprised to learn that, on average, three vehicles visit the Mursi each day, and that most tourists undenake the exhausting trip to the Omo valley purely to see the Mursi. I hoped they weren't going to be disappointed.

Ethiopian Airlines (0171-491-9119) thes five times a week from Heathrow to Addis Ababa, Through Trudewings (t)171-631 1840) a resum ticket costs £561 including tax. Bridge The World. (0171-911 0900) sells flights via Cairo. on Egyptair for £454. British visitors. can get a visa from the Ethiopian. Embasse at 17 Princes Gate. London SW7 IPZ (0171-589 7212). Trips to the Ome valley are run by Ethiopian Rift Valley Sufaris, PO Box 3658 Addis Ababa (00 251 1 55 1127).



roads are rough and an experi-enced mechanic and a supply of anted. Young. riders, willing to risk death

people responding to our advertisements, but many of them see what the joh's like and then don't bother to fill in the form. Worse still, some of the people who do apply and succeed at the interview turn down the job when it's offered."

Simon Calder

Hang on, though - why do you need staff, anyway? What about the chores that hostellers are supposed to do? Apparently there has been some customer resistance to the oldestablished routine of an hour or two of housework.

Expectations have changed, and now we rely on voluntary help," says Ms Edwards - though in the "We're getting plenty of last hostel I stayed in, the

'The pay is £100 a week, which buys more in Ecuador than in Edale'

· resident warden didn't give the impression that there was a substantial element of choice on the subject of cleaning the kitchen. It seems that southern softies like me are proving

less than co-operative in filling the vacancies. "The north-south divide is really quite dramatic. We're well staffed in the north, but still bave a number of vacancies south of the Peak District. Some people think that working in a youth hostel will be an extended holiday, and

when they find it isn't they look for something else." In my experience, a lot of them go abroad. Every backpackers' hostel from

San Diego to Sydney seems to have at least one British employee. But if cleaning up in Coalport or. landing a job in Land's End appeals, call Edwina Edwards on 01426 939216.

Should rafting the Zambezi or trekking across the Andes appeal more, then the person to talk to is Moira Welikanna (0171-370 6951). She can't get the staff these days, either. Ms Welikanna handles

recruitment for the adventure travel company Encounter, and is trying to recruit expedition leaders. The pay is similar to the YHA - board and lodging

plus about £100 a week, which buys more in Ecuador than it does in Edale. "The basic job description," says Ms Welikanna, "is simple: to take people safely and enjoyably from A to B". But you are on continuous duty 24 hours a day, responsible for 20 paying passengers - and may have to sort out anything from a clogged oil filter on the

overland truck to armed

insurrection (though not

usually among the clients).

To help you cope, you ge up to a year's training, half of it overseas.

The qualifications are straightforward: "You've got to be over 25, and able to think on your feet, stay very cool and keep your sense of fun." John Leivers has been

an expedition leader for 10 years. "The hest thing is the sense of achievement when you spend all day going up a mountain on some of the worst roads on earth, and finally discover wonderful volcanic scenery. The worst thing is when the truck breaks down half-way up."

The joys of working to travel are confirmed by some readers of the last edition of Work Your Way Around the World. Angie Copley writes from Caracas: "If I hadn't spent my last £10 on your book I'd never be where I am today. I started to realise that what I had previously thought was impossible, of travelling and working as

well, could really happen. It couldn't happen now: the price of the new eighth edition has risen to £10.99.



Verona Opera Weekends

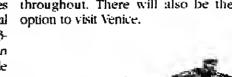
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Trouble spots

No-go nations around the world

Antarctica and the Americas share a common benefit: they are continents deemed safe by the Foreign Office, unlike Africa, Asia and Europe.

The FO's Travel Advice and Kivu (Zaire).
Unit this week added Albania The Travel A to its list of places that you are advised to avoid. The other nine blacklisted countries are: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Central African Republic, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia, Tajik-

istan and Western Sahara. Four other areas (not entire countries) are ruled out-ofbounds: Chechnya (Russia), Jammu and Kashmir (India)

The Travel Advice Unit (0171-238 4503) advises that the following should be avoided "unless on essential business": Angola, Bosnia, Rwanda, plus the remainder of Zaire and eastern Turkey.

True or false:

Travel writing without pictures is like a kiss without a moustache?

Like the proverbial unmoustachioed kiss, asking any enthusiastic traveller to describe their trip can be as disappointing as eating strawberries without cream. They'll start on about magnificent scenery, gorgeous national costume, and oh! those jewellike colours at sunset ... But after a few minutes even the most verbose will be groping for the right words, and after a while they'll just say: "Stuff it, here are the photographs."

Or they'll resort to comparison: "a bit like Scotland hut warmer" for any uninhabited upland; "like Cornwall with coconuts", for most beaches further south than 50 degrees or, my favourite -"Benidorm with hilharzia", for any new resort.

Making the words paint the picture is a difficult skill: comparisons can helittle, hyperbole can annoy, cliches can tire. Show me another undiscovered paradise with crystal waters set in a land of contrasts with breathtaking scenery and I'll show you a travel writer whose next hreak needs to he a fortnight somewhere quiet, with a nice, limpid pool of imagination to dive into.

As the producer of BBC Radio 4's Breakaway I'm always

looking for ways to transport the listener from the Saturday breakfast table (or Sunday night bedside) to the shores of Vanuatu. I was told by an old Radio 4 hand – the producer of From Our Own Correspondent, that a reporter should aim to "make the listeners smell the streets" (although it is questionable whether the Saturday morning listener would want to get that close to Old Delhi market or Mombasa harbour). We try to find writers who can communicate their enthusiasm for travel without sounding smug, who can conjure up sparkling images, who can give an accurate portrayal for the would-be tourist without making him or her sag under the weight of air fares and train times.

Today, our campaign to make a word paint 1,000 pictures gets a boost as Pete McCarthy rejoins the programme as presenter. Is it true that travel-writing without pictures can be as complete as a kiss without a moustache? Listen and decide.

Eleanor Garland

'Breakaway', presented by Pete McCarthy, is on Radio 4 at 9.30am today and at 10.45pm

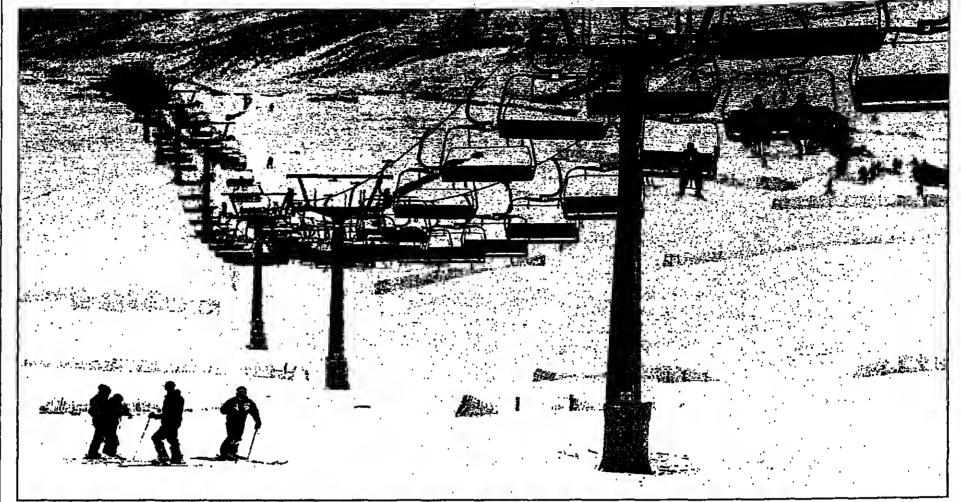
Bargain of the week

You can now travel free from Road on the airport's northern bus. The usual minimum adult fare on London's huses is 50 pence. But in and around Europe's busiest airport, it falls to zero thanks to "Freeflow Heathrow". This is BAA's campaign to increase the proportion of people who travel to Heathrow by public transport. The company picks up the bill for travellers on huses 105, 111, I40 and 285 between the central airport area and Bath

you have to pay a fare. The main benefit is for air travellers who find themselves delayed for a few hours. You can hop on one of the huses for a free ride to the only tourist attraction for miles, the Heathrow Visitor Centre. This interesting exhibition half opens daily at 10am, closing at 5pm at weekends and 7pm the rest of the week. And, like the bus, it is free.

The Scots ski into luxury

Gone are the austere days of the Scottish Ski Club. Now all they need north of the Border is a little more snow. By Stephen Wood



Chairway to heaven; when it's white it's wonderful, but one writer warns 'the great mistake lies in waiting for a good day, as it seldom happens'

This will be a "preview" trip for the travel trade and the press; but next season Eurostar will run a regular service from London to Bourg St Maurice, from where it is a short trip to La Plagne, Les Arcs (linked to Bourg St Maurice by a funicular railway), Tignes and Val d'Isère.

But it won't be the first direct train service from London to the ski long-delayed skiing trip to Scothunk reading Skisters, Myrtle Simpson's long-out-of-print history of Scottish skiing. After a last look at England - on a damp, dark night at Crewe - I fell asscep: when I next looked out it was from the singletrack railway across Rannoch Moor on a bright Scottish morning.

arly tomorrow morning, a view that skiing in Scotland can Eurostar train leaves Water- sometimes be an "experience" loo for the French Alps. rather than a pleasure, Even before the First World War, she reports, "skiing was becoming popular [and] members of the Scottish Ski Cluh began to feel that their sport was degraded as a result." The committee therefore decided that applicants could qualify for membership only by completing a series of strenuous Unless you enjoy hanging around airports, enduring long coach transfers and polluting the atmosphere with fossil fuels, you'll look forward and without ski lifts. Expeditions in the Alps did not count, since obviously they were for softies: the "sig-nificant difference between people slopes, Last week I caught the over-night Caledonian Sleeper from those in the Alps," says Simpson, is Euston to Fort William for a first, that "Scottish skiers have an unlimited capacity to put their head down land. As the train rumbled up the against a hlizzard. She quotes one West Coast main line, I lay in my enthusiastic skier as saying that the weather in Scotland "is always indif-

> seldom happens". I waited the best part of three months for a good day, telephoning

> ferent to had, and the great mistake

lies in waiting for a good day, as it

and sunshine. And the weather too long to follow and the names wasn't the only thing that helied the image of Scottish skiing. The Nevis Range ski area, only 10 minutes' drive from my tiny hut comfortable bedroom in Fort William station, is the newest Scottish ski resort, having opened in the 1989/90 season. So its facilities reach a standard of which the dour old Scottish Ski Club would have strongly disapproved: a six-seat gondola carries you 2.3km from the road up to a big restaurant and har, and 10 ski lifts cover a ski area which stretches up to the peak of Aonach Mor, at 1,220m the highest point in Scotland to he reached by a lift.

The views from the restaurant terrange, the resort looks down on the wide Lochy valley between Loch Linnhe and Loch Lochy, which makes a soft, green-and-hrown foreground to a panorama of rugged, mainly snow-covered mountains stretching from the island of Rhum. out in the Atlantic, across to Inverness on the North Sea coast. An Scotland regularly from mid- etched metal plate on the terrace December onwards; but my balustrade attempts to identify each

Coaching Holidays

were no easier for an Englishspeaker, being mostly had anagrams (Sgurr Thuilm?) or Gaelic expletives (Stoh Mhil Bheathain!). Poor Nevis has had a terrible sea-

son so far: the resort hoped to have

had 48,000 skier-days by now, hut has achieved only a third of that number. This January was one of the driest on record; and February's good snowfalls were washed down the mountain by heavy rain. Which is a great pity, because a new, £13m resort needs better luck, and because - even on last week's limited snow - it offers good, challenging skiing. Many of the pistes on the main face off the ridge, hit the snow flying of the mountain were narrow, the and then did a slow, anxious traverse, thin snow having been hulldozed in Set on the north face of the Nevis from the edges to provide a reasonable, vegetation- and rock-free surface; and all had hig patches of ice, offering an experience to go with the pleasure. But the main snow bowl (well, a side-plate, really), with a red run merging into a hlue, was well covered and exhilarating.

In one respect, Nevis lived up to the image of Scotland as a tough place to ski. As noted last week, Simpson's hook reinforces the patience was rewarded with snow mountain, but the jagged line was runs had been a doddle, but even the Sgurr a' Mhàim.

Canaries

reds at Nevis were a desirable challenge, most of all in an east-facing bowl called Coire Dubh. Cally Fleming, the resort's marketing manager, insisted that I bad to ski into the bowl - and made sure that I did so by leading me there, even though its lift wasn't working, and there was also a slight risk of avalanche.

We edged up a sheet-ice slope to a ridge near the peak. I looked over the edge. Stob Mhil Bheathain! From the ridge was a near-vertical drop on to a very steep slope, which levelled out gradually into an un-pisted bowl full of snow. Rather than have Fleming do it, I pushed myself wondering when I would dare to turn down the slope. By the third turn, of course, I was loving it.

1 would have bad another go maybe two or three; hut without the lift, it was a long haul around the resort to get back to the ridge. And then I might have missed the summit run off the peak. It's only a sbort hlue run, but I spent a long time on it; I kept stopping to get a hit more of the dramatic view to the south Killington's double-diamond black west, of Ben Nevis, Cam Dearg and

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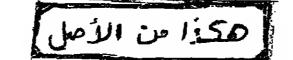
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outings

History comes alive

Homework? It's fun for all the family. By Deborah Jackson

t school, studying for computer databases. Once a Geography O-level, month, legionaries describe we compared and contrasted the formatioo Roman Imperial Army. of river valleys. Theo my par-eots took me to the Lake Disglacial valley of them all.

childreo to find inspiration in a restored huilding, an ancient costume or a virtual scene from the past. Over the next two weeks we are making a swift tour of a section of the National Curriculum: the Key Stage Two History Programme, which has six study units for seven-to-11-year-olds, each matched with ideas for family outings.

Unit 1: Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain

Pupils must study one of these, and most schools opt for the Romans, who left a wealth of forts, amphitheatres, weapons; and roads to get us to them.

Romans: Get an insight into their domestic life at Rockbourne Roman Villa near Fordingbridge in Hampshire (01725 518541), which has mosaics, a coin hoard, leather shoes and even human skele- ancient Greeks. Unforttons. Meanwhile Chedworth unately, the best trappings of Roman Villa at Yarnworth, this distant civilisation are Cheltenham (01242 890256) housed in the giant tourist has its own water shrine, bath- park known as Athens.

houses and mosaics." cleansing experience than the 636 1555), home to the muchsteamy waters that bubble up from the Sacred Spring in extensive collection begins Bath at 46 C. The Roman with the Greek Bronze Age, including marble figurines dat-477785) displays votive offerings, the gilt bronze head of the goddess Sulis Minerva and 2,000-year-old curses cast into the waters by Romans with reveoge on their minds.

For military organisation see Caerleon Roman Fortress (01222 500200), once home of 5.500 élite Roman infantry. The soldiers' giant leisure complex had heated changing rooms, a swimming pool and a gymnasium, plus a 6,000seater auditorium for gladiatorial events.

And then there's Hadrian's Wall. Where should you start? Senhouse Roman Museum oo the Cumhrian coast (01900 816168), once the headquarters of Hadrian's coastal defence system, is home to a large collection of altar-stones and some stunning sculpture. Look out for the famous Serpent Stone. Heading east, Northumberlaod's Housesteads Roman Fort at Haydon Bridge (01434 344363) features the only known Roman hospital in Britain, and a 24seater latrine with flush tank. Nearby, Corbridge near Hex-ham (01434 632349) has the

famous Corbridge Lion.
For a more intimate view of Roman life, the Verulamium Museum at St Albans (01727 819339) has re-created rooms, hands-on discovery areas and since 1930.

the lifestyle and tactics of the

Anglo-Saxons: There are plenty of Saxon churches trict, and there at the head of around, but for a glimpse into Windermere was the finest the secular way of life, Bede's World in Jarrow (0191-489 Days out with an educa-tional beot are brilliant for the early Middle Ages - with Anglo-Saxon cooking demoostrations, Outside, ao Anglo-Saxon farm features rare hreeds and authentic crops.

West Stow Country Park (01284 728718) in Suffolk contains a pagan Anglo-Saxon vil-lage, based oo a settlemeot dating from AD420-650, with reconstructed oak buildings.

Vikings: No study is complete without a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre in York (01904 643211), which has tools, clothing and other clues to a forgotten way of life. Travel in a "time car" back to Normao Britain, hear Old Norse as it was spoken, experieoce the dark, smoky homes and the smells of fish and pigs in the market place.

Unit 4: ancient Greece

All junior-age children are expected to learn about the

In Britain, you could begin And there's no deeper at the British Museum (0171 disputed Light Marties. At ing from 3000 BC, and carved pillars from elaborate tombs, from 1300 BC. Greek myths and legends are depicted in

statues, pottery and jewellery. Also open without appointment is the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, a large room in the classics departmeot of Reading University (01734 318420). It has painted pottery and other artefacts.

Unit 6: a past non-European

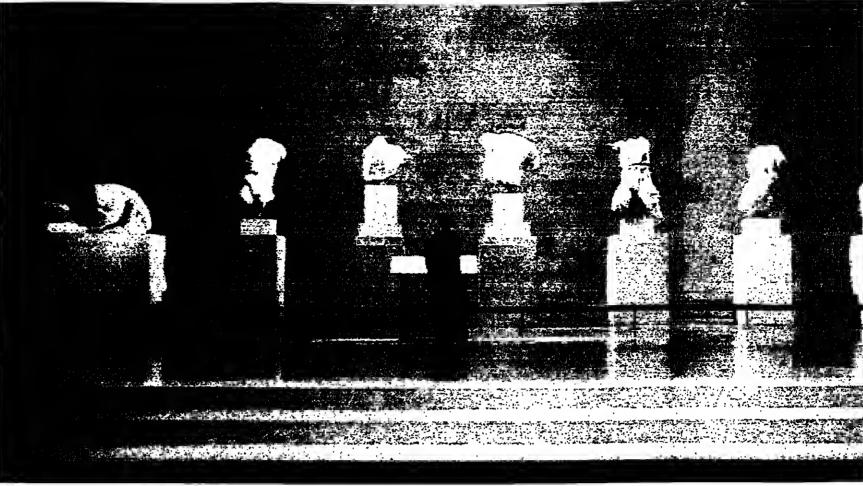
Options include ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Val-ley, the Maya, Benin, the

The ancient Egyptians have Tutankhamun to thank for most of their 20th-ceotury publicity. The boy king's tomb, mummy and goldeo mask have been replicated in Dorchester, Dorset (01305 269571), where visitors can stroll as if through

the pyramid itself. For the rest, it's back to the British Museum, where the oew Mexican gallery explores 4,000 years of "Mesoamerican" tribes and peoples. The Aztecs and Mayas are well represented, with examples of ritual dress, idols, fertility symbols and creation myths.

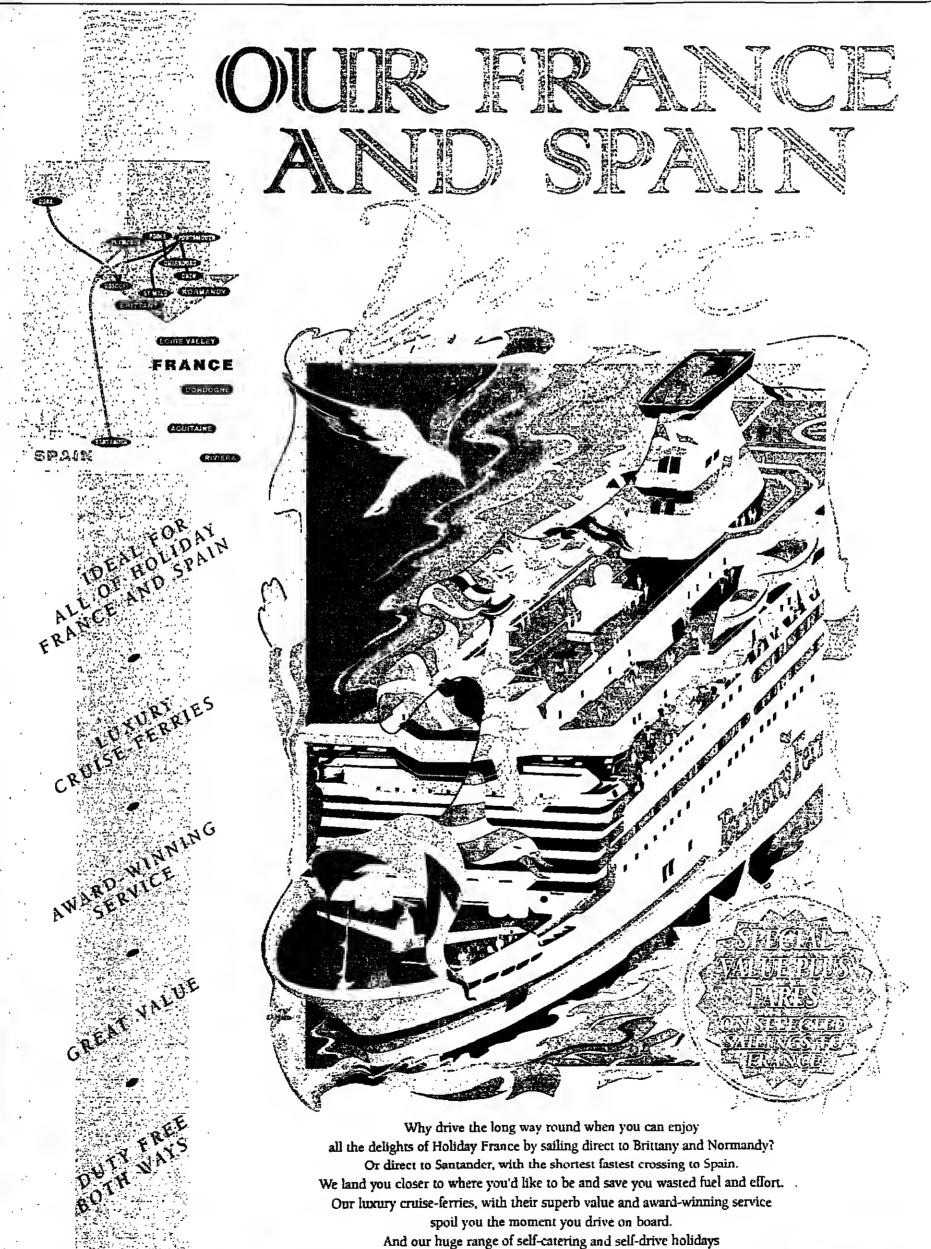
Next week: Life in Tudor Times; Victorian Britain; and Britain

DTA.



ages: the much disputed Elgin Marbles at the British Museum

PHOTOGRAPH: RELITERS





and breaks will spoil you for choice.

The lure of the good life

Smallholdings are 'in', reports Daniel Butler

82 who could easily pass for 60.
"We are genuinely self-suffi-cient: we produce all our own food and live and eat extremely well," says this father of the British self-sufficient movement.

He is in London on a flying visit, and it is clear from the way that he keeps glancing at his watch that two days in town have about a shift to "the good life", heen more than enough. Now he but estate agents along the Welsh is chafing to get back to his small- border (where smallboldings are holding in County Wexford: still common), say that demand "London is nothing more than an for such properties is booming. ugly muddle of buildings joined on to each other." he says. "Most part as a sort of spiritual leader for people who live in cities are purely this move. In 1973 he and his wife parasitical. One day the infrastructure will break down. They

sion in 1956 to buy a smallholding inevitably been called the move-in Suffolk and take up farming: "I ment's mentor, a term that be thought I was the only person in the world trying to rediscover lost skills and get closer to the have a turban or a flowing robe. land." he says. "Then I found a If I can inspire a few people to group of people in America doing make their own beer, that's good the same thing, but there was no enough for me." one else in Britain moving in that direction," The picture was the same eight years later when be moved to Pembrokeshire with his wife and three daughters, but larger and larger farms, would over the last 30 years much has changed: "Now 'drop-ins' las he calls his fellow New Age peasants]

almost outnumber the locals." The new converts were a mixed Seymour moved west, upping sticks for Ireland 16 years ago, where he now has a five acre holding hased around a crosshred Jersey-Angus cow: "She is the middle of the arch." he explains

ohn Seymour is a walking advertisement for the philosophy of "small means all our milk, cheese and butter good": a fit, healthy man of not to mention all that manure, which keeps the place fertile." Tea, coffee and cereals need to be bought, but otherwise this small plot feeds three adults full-time and about 80 students a year, who come to learn his skills on weeklong courses.

There are no figures to back up Seymour's anecdotal evidence

Seymour bas certainly played a Sally published a manual, Self-Sufficiency, which was an instant will find nothing happens when they turn on the tap or switch on the light. What will we do then if we've lost all our old skills?"

He says this desire to master

He says this desire to master dying crafts lies behind his deci- countries. As a result, he has ment's mentor, a term that be resents intensely: "I'm certainly not a guru," he protests. "I don't

At first glance, the demand for his courses and suitable smallholdings, at a time when the general agricultural trend is towards seem to suggest that Seymour's vision is catching on. Appearances are deceptive, however, says the estate agent Ryan Williams, at McCartneys in Hayblessing, and as they moved in, so on-Wye in Herefordshire. He sees rage a few years back has stumbled with the barsh reality of than a romantic desire to produce



John Seymour: 'Most people who live in cities are purely parasitical

Williams believes that much of the behind today's New Age peas- why so many of Williams's cusimpetus towards self-sufficiency comes from those same electrical

all - computers, it is increasingly possible for people to "telecommute". There is no typical buyer. but many are people who work from home," says Williams. Other small farms sell to people who have taken early redundancy and want an active retirement, while some go to young professionals who want a safe environment for their children and are prepared to commute relatively long distances

to the Midlands or M4 corridor. Thus it seems that a desire for an improved quality of life, rather Welsh winters," he says. Ironically, their own food, is the main motive

antry. Recent research by the Henley Centre for Forecasting keen to swap small, but valuable, consumer goods that Seymour's "hardline" greens despise.

Thanks to faxes, improved telecommunications and – above the consumer it is in a constant of the con would like to go part time if they could afford it. A quarter said they would take a lower-paid joh if it wiously taken for granted – such meant less stress, and 28 per cent as the absence of local supersaid they would choose more markets and restaurants.

> more time at bome. Of course, once they are hurdened with a mortgage, personal pensions and credit cards, it can be difficult or impossible for many people to make the financial adjustments that come with a slower pace of life. This explains

leisure rather than more money.

Of those questioned, 16 per cent

said they would even take a pay

cut if it meant they could spend

bowever, there can be hidden surprises in the form of things pre-But Seymour has words of

grudging encouragement for those reluctant to leave urban life : "Cities are desirable, provided they're not too big," he says. "Civilisation gives the true countryman the benefits of culture, universities and so on. After all, the Greece of Homer's time - where there were no cities to speak of - was a poorer place than

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ud, mud, hideous mud: that is what heats the blood of anyone looking out over the Severn Estuary from Oldhary as the tide is ebbing, and that is what has driven Philip Jones, one of the area's last traditional salmon fishermen, out of business.

He is in no doubt as to the cause of the disaster. "It's that bastard there," he says, pointing past the original Severn bridge to the second crossing, five miles downstream. He claims that the accretion of mud began soon after construction of the new bridge started, in 1992. Before that, he used to walk out a mile to fish over rock scoured bare by the tide; now the glutinous sludge is 9ft deep, and would swallow any man trying to cross it.

What has happened - in Philip's view - is that the 40-odd caissons supporting the second hridge have taken the force out of the tides. which rise and fall as much as 40ft and are among the most powerful in the world. The result is that silt is no longer carried past in suspension, but fails out of the slacker water and builds up on the bottom. He is now seeking compensation for the loss of his livelihood from the Department of Transport. The powers-that-be disclaim responsibility, and maintain that the silting of the lake and the approaches to it has been caused by natural shifts in the bed of the river.

Philip is the last of a long line. His grandfather, father and uncle all spent their lives fishing the river. and he himself grew up with no other amhition than to follow in their footsteps. . For centuries salmon bave been

caught off Oldbury in two forms of trap: pntchers - tapering, conical willow baskets set out in tiers across likely stretches of the river and lave-nets, which resemble giant shrimping nets and are manipulated by individuals standing in the water. Both devices depend on the fact that in the lower reaches of the Severn salmon cannot see, because the water is opaque, full of silt stirred up by the tremendous pull of the tides.

In recent years putcher fishing has declined, with a drop in the numbers of salmon coming upriver. But lave-fishing continued to flourish until recently, especially off Oldbury, in a long, narrow pool a



For centuries salmon have been caught in tidal pools ... now there's sludge

mile out to sea, left behind by every falling tide.

For a stranger, it is fascinating to look out across the glistening. three-mile expanse of the estuary and watch the tide go down. On a cloudy morning everything is a mysterious gunmetal colour – water, sand, mud. sky, all grey and it needs an expert such as Philip Jones to interpret the

changes that steal over the scene.
"See that horseshoe mark coming up?" be says. "That's where the pool is. He'll be up in a . moment. See those two pieces of rock starting to show? That's what I call the Haddock. Only they aren't rocks: they're man-made walls,

built to keep the fish in.

In the old days Philip would walk out with his lave-net and take up station on one of the Standings -three-tiered stone platforms built for the purpose. The pool, he explains, used to be about 6ft deep for much of its length; fish cut off in it by the ebbing tide would drop back towards the seaward end.

There, finding themselves above a rock shelf, they would turn hack upstream, and the lone fisherman, spotting a fin or a track through the water, would lower his net as it came towards him.

Fresh-run fish were prized in local pubs - the Anchor at Oldbury, the Windbound, the Berkeley Arms - and Harvey's restaurant in Bristol prided itself on serving the first

Severn salmon of the season. Now the tradition of Oldbury fishing is gone, huried beneath 25 million tons of hlue-grey sludge.

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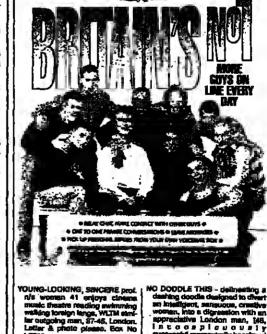
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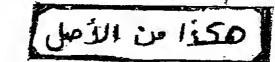
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The joys of parenting

In the final article in her current series, Anna Pavord gives advice on propagating new young plants from past favourites

of children, but it advances unchecked when the number of mouths round the kitchen table into the surface of the vermiculite. starts to dwindle.

The disease is made more dangerous by the fact that most plants, being infinitely more subtle than people, offer more than one way of perpetuating themselves. The exceptions are the annuals, which germinate, grow to their full poten-tial, seed themselves and die within the space of a single season. The only way of propagating them is by

But with other plants, you can choose whether you sow seed, divide plants up, take cuttings, or make layers - which is a lazy kind of cutting. The method you choose depends on the end result that you are looking for.

The point about cuttings is that each one will grow into a perfect replica of its parent - if that is what you want. Nurserymen depend on this sameness. But each seed in a seed pod may turn out to he a subtle variation of the parent, since the progeny sometimes skip back, as children do, to pick up a trait that has been suppressed for several generations.

The variation is a safety device. A flower that has a slightly different shape or colour from that of its parent may be more successful at attracting pollinating insects. A. leaf that grows narrow, or develops a woolly texture, may survive drought more easily. Plants sub-scribe to the harsh doctrine of survival of the fittest. But gardeners intervene, selecting sickly seedlings to grow on, for the sake of a rare mutation in the flower, or a variegation on a leaf, that has nothing to do with survival.

The seed-sowing season gets into its stride about now, though you should never be in too much of a hurry to sow seed of annuals or tender bedding plants. Many trials have shown that seed sown in April catches up fast with seed sown in March_

Use small pots for initial sowings, two-thirds filled with compost, topped up with vermiculite. Water the pots from above with a fine rose

ropagating plants is a before sowing. Soaking pots in themselves be flowering plants by benign kind of disease. It water can mean that the compost late summer. Take shoots with gets waterlogged. Scatter seed over under control by a surfeit the surface of the vermiculite. Very fine seed will not need covering. Larger seeds can be gently stirred

> Cover the pots with glass or cling film, and then with newspaper to exclude light - though some seeds, including ageratum, antir-rhinum, begonia, cineraria, impatiens, lobelia, mimulus, nicotiana, petunia and salvia, germinate best in light and should not be covered. As soon as the seedlings emerge, remove the covers and keep the pots well watered.

Prick off the seedlings into large seed trays as soon as the first real leaves develop. Very small seedlings

infinitely more subtle than people, offer more than one way of reproducing themselves 7

such as alyssum and lohelia can be pricked out in small clumps. Harden off the plants gradually before planting them out in permanent positions. In halmy coastal areas, this may be in mid-April. In central Scotland, it is unlikely to be a good idea to do it before June.

Cuttings of plants can be taken at three different stages. Softwood cuttings are those taken from young shoots between March and June. In some ways they are the most difficult to look after, as they often need mist and warmth before they will root, and they need to root fast before they exhaust their own food supplies. The exceptions are geranium and fuchsia, both of which root very easily from softwood cuttings. This system also works with cotinus, lilac, lavender and

potentilla. Fuchsia cuttings taken now will

three pairs of leaves, cutting just below the last pair of leaves. Set them in a pot filled with fastdraining compost. Cover with a polythene bag and keep at a temperature between 50F and 60F. Move the cuttings into separate pots when their own growth shows that they have rooted

Cut old, overwintered geranium plants hard back in early spring. Water and feed them to encourage new shoots, which will provide softwood cuttings. Any healthy shoot, about 3-4 in long, will make a cut-ting. Snap it off just helow a leaf joint. Take off all the leaves except the very young ones at the tip of the cutting. Set the cuttings round the edge of a 5-in pot of compost. Do not cover them. Pot them on when

Semi-ripe cuttings are the ones you take when the current season's shoots are just beginning to harden, but are still pliable (generally between mid-June and August). The shoots must be healthy and vigorous. Simple stem cuttings can be snipped in 4-in or 6-in lengths from any likely-looking section of stem. Internodal cuttings are made by cutting half-way between leaf joints on a stem.

Nodal cuttings are made through the hump immediately below a leaf joint. You then whip off the bottom leaves attached to the lump before putting the cutting into its

Hibiscus roots well from stem cuttings, taken at the end of July or August. Take 6-in sections of stem and line them out in sandy soil in a cold frame, where they have some winter protection. Try the technique with hydrangeas, too. by taking 4-in sections of semi-ripe wood and sticking them round the side of a pot of compost. Cover the pot with a plastic bag until the cuttings have found their feet. A heel cutting is what you get

when you take hold of a side shoot (not one that is flowering) and give it a sharp tug downwards. It comes away with a hit of the old stem attached. That is the "heel". Both huddleia and chaenomeles root from heel cuttings, taken in late July or August, Choose plump lateral shoots 4in or 5in long, and pull



Spring, by Flemish painter Abel Grimmer (1570-1619)

growing top and the bottom leaves and put the cuttings into a cold frame, pushing them into the ground to about half their length. A basal cutting is one made with

a clean cut through the slight swelling that usually occurs where side shoots join the main stem. This is all that distinguishes it from a heel cutting.

late July or August will root in pots or tree in autumn and early winter,

them off with a heel. Trim off the covered with a plastic bag or (in mild districts) lined out direct in the ground. A propagating frame set at about 60 F will hurry up the rooting process of shrubs such as choisya and ceanothus, but is not

> The older the wood you take for cuttings, the longer the cutting itself is, and the longer it takes to root, so hardwood cuttings, taken

sometimes take a year to root. had 100 per cent success with Many common shrubs such as berberis, dogwood, cotoneaster, escallonia, privet and ribes root from hardwood cuttings.

A layer is a kind of hardwood cutting, with the added advantage that if it doesn't take, the evidence isn't so obvious. Shrubs with naturally low-growing branches are the top of it to stop it springing free. A easiest targets. Rhododendrons year later, the stem should have Basal cunings of choisva taken in from the ripened wood of a shrub and azaleas propagate particularly rooted. To free it, simply out the well by this method, and I have also stem behind the layer.

Hydrangea villosa. When you notice a likely branch for layering, snick the underside of it about a foot back from the growing tip. Scrape out a hollow in the ground underneath this point and peg the stem down into it. Cover it with earth and put a flat stone on

lower of the hour. Crocus tommasinianus, the mauvepurple crocus that grows wild on the eastern coast of the Adriatic, in Bosnia and Serbia. It is one of the earliest of the easy members of the crocus tribe to flower in the garden and it establishes and increases without much effort on the part of the gardener. The narrow, furled hads continue their performance well into March. It was named by the Dean of Manchester, the Rev William Herbert, after his botanising friend, Signor Tommasini of Trieste. Selected forms such as Whitewell Purple' and 'Barr's Purple' have darker, richer flowers than the norm. Use them in grass and scatter them under deciduous shrubs.

n the middle of the 17th century, the Count of Nassau returned from the exile imposed by the 30 Years War, and started to restore his castle at Idstein, near Frankfurt. He also laid ont a garden, full of rare plants and flowers - lilies, roses, hollyhocks, anemones, tulips. When the garden was established, he commissioned the painter Johann Walther of Strasbourg to record all his hest and rarest plants. The paintings have been gathered in a charming book which deserves a better title than So Many Sweet Flowers - even if that is a contemporary quotation. The collection (Pavilion, £16.99) has a foreword by Gill Saunders, of the V&A's department of prints and drawings, and are accompanied by extracts from the manuscript prepared originally for the Count of Nassau, and by quotations from other writers of the time. It is a

C ad news for clematis lovers. OKeith and Carol Fair of the Valley Clematis Nursery have. decided that this will be their last season. "We want to enjoy some of the other pleasures of



life hefore we get too decrepit," explains Mr Fair. I have found their mail order service one of the hest in the hasiness, with plants vigorously grown and beautifully packed. In a special clearance sale, they are offering four of their plants for the price of three. The offer extends only to plants available in March: 14 large-flowered hybrids, including 'Comtesse de Bouchard' and 'Rouge Cardinal', nine different montana types, four different viticellas and the herbaceous clematis 'Petit Faucon' and C iouiana Praecox'. The Valley Clematis Nursery, Willinghan Road, Hainton, Lincoln LN3 6LN (01507 313398).

The Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club are holding a show today (12pm-4.30, admission £1) at the Lancaster and Morecambe College of Further Education, Morecambe Road, Lancaster. On display are primulas, cyclamen, soldanellas, fritillaries, saxifrages and sempervivums.

he Hazel Revolution, a oneday conference on managing hazel coppice, will be held at West Dean College, near Chichester, West Sussex on Tuesday 25 March (9.15am-4,30pm). It is organised by the Wessex Coppice Group and the Timber Growers Association, and will look at the new markets that have opened up for hazel products over the last two years and examine ways of meeting the demand. The cost is £39. (Linda Glynn, Wessex Coppice Group, 01962 772030).

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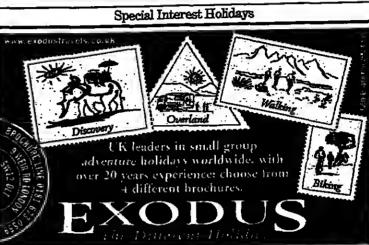
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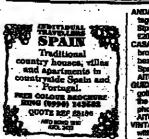
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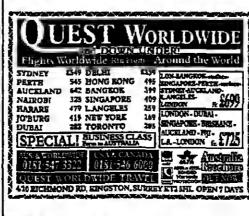


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Irish isles are smiling

The 'hope chest' of the Aran Islanders is sustained by tourism. By Jeremy Seal

Plunkett on the hig Aran island of Inishmore, a gentle priest delivered the sermon at Easter morning mass in a soft torrent of Irisb. Only a few words were recognisable, but they were the significant ones - Boston, Massachusetts" ... "Arsenal, London" ... and even "Tokyo, Japan" indexing the distant places where Aran Islanders have been forced to make their homes. On the three Aran Islands, slung

like a necklace across Galway Bay, emigration has long been accepted as coming with the territory - a few square miles of unyielding fields battered by widow-making, increasingly fished-out seas. As the resident population falls below 1,500, however, rapidly increasing numbers of visitors or "blow-ins" are discovering these haunting, treeless hastions of Irishness swathed in Celtic lore and littered with ancient fortresses and early Christian sites. Tourism is being seen as turning the tide of emigration; islanders take to easy trades running bike-hire shops, B&Bs and tour buses to Dun Aengus, the great clifftop fortress that is the islands' best-known attraction. In the main settlement of Kilronan, on like they get on the other islands." Inishmore, where the ferries drop some 2,000 day-trippers daily in the height of the season, snack bars with names like The Ould Pier are

Inishmore and Inisbeer are well

t the Church of St Brigid and St Oliver Plunkett on the hig Arm island of I in the high Arm island of I in the high and Doolin in County Clare. But three-mile-long Inishmaan, the next morning. Those extraordinary walls parcel up the next morning are walls parcel up the next morning. looked askance on the outside island into small fields that each world. At the island's quay, poignantly named An Cora or "hope chest", after the luggage of those embarked on long-term travels, families were standing by their ageing tractors to await relatives as they came ashore laden with mainland booty - tins of everything from paint to Ovaltine, planks of fresh wood, rolls of roofing felt and loo paper. They disappeared in a gloriously motley convoy down the one road, a nibbled ribhon of tarmac dividing a patchwork of tiny fields hemmed by immaculate dry-limestone walls.

We passed a few beached currachs, traditional longboats with tar-covered canvas hulls, and followed a sign across the fields to Cregmore, Angela Faherty's B&B. Angela, from County Roscommon. met her Inishmaan husband in Boston and moved to the island 20 years ago. "Oh, we get a few visit-ors," explained Angela, "Mostly, it's anthropologists and film crews; just now there's a lot from Germany filming up at Rory Concannon's, the island's last surviving currach maker. The islanders want to keep it this way; they don't want day trippers As the Inishmaan community

flirts with terminal collapse (just 20 children attend the island school). the people talk of developing "cultural tourism", but not with any great conviction. In the meantime,

sustain a single cow, and contain a sloping stone ramp the size of a double bed that feeds rainwater into the trough at its foot, In one field a woman wearing a colourful patterned shawl characteristic of the island crouched over a calf that had been born in the night, murmuring softly to it. The fields gave out at limestone terraces, freakishly flat and sea-swept clean, bar the odd perfect rectangle of rock the size of a car that some unimaginable storm had dumped there, These in turn gave way to sheer cliffs that threw up columns of spume while seals bohbed far below, their heads looking like tarred footballs.

The path led to Synge's Chair, a stone hivouse amidst a moonscape geology, where the playwright J M Synge used to come at the turn of the century to take his ease during protracted stays on the island. An old sign pointed to the house in the centre of the island where Synge produced some of his greatest works. Where an interpretation centre would have been long established on the other islands, here weeds poked from a dilapidated thatch above dirty, locked rooms bousing an assortment of junk. The effect was unintentionally atmospheric, and spoke volumes for Inishmaan attitudes towards the outside world, and perhaps to the blow-in playwright himself.

served by their respective mainland the island remains a place apart – In the cosy village pub, a fire was which meant weighing passengers had been greeted with the funniest ports. Rossaveal in Connemara even by Aran standards – as we burning. Locals were lining up as well as baggage on a pair of both- of looks by the other skippers when

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beneath decorations that had been up since Christmas (and probably

not the most recent one). A quarter-hour walk brought us through the lanes in from Faherty's B&B to the island's airport. The airport building was locked and we sat among a buzz of insects as rabbits nibbled at the runway where a sign featuring an (unlikely) airliner warned off the unwary. Then the airport came to life as plane and staff appeared all at once from different directions: a nine-seater Britten Norman Islander, the airport's fire officer, wbo turned out to he Angela Faherty's husband, and the elderly man who trebled as air traffic control, ticket issuer and check-in.

skimmed low across Gregory's Sound to Inishmore, with the sea showing aquamarine beneath us: on the heach, figures were forking seaweed into trailers to be used as fertiliser on kitchen gardens,

Three minutes after take-off, we touched down at Inishmore, from where a banered Transit van ferried passengers into town. In Joe Mac's pub in Kilronan. Sean the ferry skipper joined us for a pint of Guinness. He arrived as a blow-in six years ago and was now bringing up two children on the island. Sean accepted that tourism was having its effect, but did not doubt that it would take more than a few chip shops to spoil the magic of the islands. He remembered how he

Easter Saturday pints of Guinness room scales. Once aboard, we he first arrived, until one of them put him right. "You trying to drown the lot of us?" the skipper asked him. "You keep turning your boat agin the sun." As Sean explained. it was considered extremely had luck to turn the boat to the east. against the direction of the sun. "It can get busy in the summer."

he admitted, "But the crush is very concentrated. If you avoid the middle of Kilmman and the road up to Dun Aengus, you won't see anybody." We hired bikes and, sure enough, at the other end of the island, we had all to ourselves the undisturbed ruins that litter these

Like the more famous Dun Aengus further west. Dun Ducathair, the "black fort", was a great semicircular fortification perched on a clifftop above the scu and pro-

tected on the land side by upright, angled stones, or chevaux de frise. Bicycling on, we passed the old stone memorials to the sea dead that line the road around the village of Killeany, and made our way up the track to the ruins of a tiny seventh-century oratory dedicated to St Benan. The views were stunning. Inisheer appeared in the distance beyond Inishmaan, and we could see Sean's ferry leaving Kilronun for the mainland. As we watched him leave port and swing the hoat round to the west, we could almost hear Aran skippers everywhere breathing a collective sigh of relief.

The best source of information on the Aran Isalads is the Galway office of the Irish Tourist Bourd: call

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Yet when you start planning a trip, the complexity of planes and boats, trains and tunnels proves baffling. So to show you how to get from A to B, moins cher, The Independent has created a unique A-Z of ways to reach destinations all over France, Some of the methods help you to take advantage of brand-new (or yet-to-be-introduced) services, while others will simply save you money.

All fares shown are returns, and include applicable taxes. They are quotes obtained anonymously by telephone researchers on Thursday and Friday this week. Company contacts are given opposite.

Aberdeen to Antibes

Strange hus true: Luton is the new gateway to Europe. Lowcost airlines such as Debonair and easyJet have turned the Bedfordshire airport into an important air hub, especially for Aberdonian sun-seekers, A flight connection at Luton on easy Jet can get you to Nice for £168,40 return. The good news is that Nice airport is just a 10minute cab ride from Antibes. The not-quite-so-terrific news is that the flight schedules mean you must spend a night in Luton in each direction.

Birmingham to Bordeaux The global HQ of National Express coaches are in Birmingham, so not surprisingly there is a good deal by bus to from the Midlands to the Medoc. The hus company will get you to Vietoria Coach Stato Bordeaux for £99, allowing you to compare the 17th-century Rue du Loup with the 20th-century Bullring.

Cardiff to Charles de Gaulle BA 7805, one of the more wayward flights in the British Airways timetable, wafts from Aberdeen to Paris by way of Belfast City and Cardiff-Wales

he French feelgood factor est arrivé.

Liberated by cheap francs and low it will cost £116.40 – only a fiver more than the first class British travellers train to London. It is tricky to make a case for the main Paris airport being a destination in its own right, but the sturdy old aerodrome of Le Bourget – halfway into Paris – houses one of the great unsung museums, devoted to Air and Space.

> Dover to Dunkerque The Sealink between these two ports has been broken, Instead, nip up the Kent coast to Ramsgate and take the new Holyman Sally fast ferry to Dunkerque, Starting on 15 May, the Australian-made catamaran is scheduled to take 75 minutes. A car plus five people costs £151 for any length of stay on selected sail-

on Friday and Saturday depar-tures in July and August). Edinburgh to Epernay

In theory, this trip is easy. The Rail Shop's brochure boasts of through trains from Britain's cities to Paris this summer, as it did last year, but the promise has yet to be kept. There is some hope that direct Eurostar trains from Edinburgh and Glasgow via the East Coast main line will finally begin in June. Timings and fares for the through trains to Paris have yet to be calculated, but expect an introductory offer of £99 with a journey time of eight hours from Edinburgh, Bolt on £10 and 75 minutes each way to Epernay; you can reach the maison of Moet with just a fiveminute walk between Gares du Nord and de l'Est in Paris.

colkestone to Foix

Few ferries serve Folkestone's handsome harbour any more. tion in under three hours for Instead, burrow beneath the a modest £12; then Eurolines Channel on Le Shuttle. Pack has a direct overnight service your car with up to eight other people, and you all get to Calais in 35 minutes for £149 in April or May. To reach the fine town of Foix in the Pyreneean foothills involves a drive of 1,000km (625 miles), possibly arduous with nine in a car. Still, the A20 through France. speeding the journey south, is being improved faster than is the A20 through Folkestone.



Official Airlines Guide is to

take the Metro from Jarrow to

Newcastle airport, fly on

Sabena to the Belgian capital,

then take a flight to Marseilles

- from where fast, frequent

trains shuttle along to Juan les

Pins. Local discount agents

such as Dawson & Sanderson

(0191-257 1777) can get you there and back for £222.

Glasgow to Grennble

Go from the Clyde to the Alps via Essex. At the end of this month, Flightline begins oper-ating flights from Stansted to motorists will Geneva: tickets are being sold find it facile through Plus Travel for £122 to reach the return through the summer, Bolt on a Ryanair return from Prestwick to Stansted for £70, including a rail ticket from Glasgow Central or any other Scottish station, and you will he within 60 miles of Grenoble. But with the pound having appreciated even more against the Swiss franc than vis-a-vis the French currency, perhaps you'd best rester in Geneva.

Huddersfield to Honfleur A "supersaver" rail ticket from

the West Yorkshire town to above the Portsmouth costs a whacking harbour of Newhaven. From Jarrow to Juan les Pins £56.50 - more than many bere, a high-speed Stena ship Tynesiders should travel to the Channel crossings with a car at will whisk terrestrial travellers Côte d'Azur by way of Brussels. cial offers. P&O's Portsmouth-Le Havre ferry costs a modest £20 for foot passengers if you take a midweek daytime sailing. You need not actually arrive on foot: the ferry company will let you take your bike free on the boat. Hope for a favourable breeze for the ride

pswich to lie

de Ré Even from small island that launches itself into the Atlantic from the intensely serene port of La Rochelle. A voyaging seagull, flying

CHILDREN GO FREE

directly down from Suffolk on a straightline route to the sie de Ré would glide

this time of year. Without speacross to Dieppe in a couple of The official advice from the hours for £48, for a five-day. two-person trip. Migrating gulls and drivers would both do well to avoid Paris en route to the silvery island of sand dunes and marshes, speckled with a few trees. The terrain, you may conclude, is remarkably similar to Suffolk, but across the mouth of the Scine the coast is punctuated with a to the still-pretty fishing village. few more nudist beaches.

where you find bus 320 to Biggin Hill International Airport. The Kent airport's sole sched-Kidderminster to Kayserberg To travel from the carpet capital of Worcesshort hop, walk from the air-port to the geriatrically glamtershire to the village wbose

uled service is on Love Air to

Le Touquet, fare £135. After a

orous resort in 15 minutes.

A British Airways Boeing 737

has flown between Manchester

and Nice for many summers.

But this year, the flight has

turned into a charter. When

BA decided to cut the link to

the south of France, the tour

operator Unijet took it over.

So starting on May 24, Man-

cunian rugby fans can make tracks to Menton easily for

£219; just take the train from

Nice to the final resting place

of William Webb Ellis, wbo

departed for the great scrum

Brussels intervenes again for

Typeside travellers to Lorraine.

Hull to Zeebrugge on P&O

North Sea Ferries (£106 for a

car and driver for five nights)

cuts out much of the motoring,

and provides free motorway

driving through Belgium and

in the sky from Menton.

Newcastie to Nancy

Manchester to Menton

biggest boast is as the birtbplace of Albert Schweitzer is, surprisingly, a piece of patisserie: take a train to Birmingham airport to connect with the Crossair flight to Basel (£217). Basel, of course, is a Swiss city. Bnt

a geo-political wrinkle places its airport firmly on the French side of the border, with a land corridor to the Swiss city that gives it the name. When you leave the airport, you choose whether to enter French or Swiss territory. Choose France, take the bus into Mulhouse and a train onwards to Colmar, Kayserberg is on the outskirts.

uton to Le Touquet Thameslink takes you via Luxembourg - tolls begin only Blackfriars to Bromley South, at the French frontier.

Character

rans (below left) save time across the Channel, but do not permit travellers to sample the brac-ing sea air on deck (left). MAIN PICTURE HULTON GETTY

Oxford to Orléans

The Thames to the Loire is mostly navigable by water, but hitching could be quicker. Students who don't mind a slow getaway should thumb along the M40 species. the M40, swerve around London on the M25 and continue to Folkestone on the M20. A "Paris, please" sign will earn you blank looks or derision, but could get you a free ride through the Channel Tunnel and on to the French capital. The patience of a saint such as Joan of Arc will help on the bitcher's graveyard that is the Boulevard Périphérique, but you might manage to thumb from Oxford to Orléans for £0.

Pimlico to Paris Apart from hitching, the lowest fare remains Hoverspeed's £27 bus fare from Victoria (a short walk from Pimlico) to the Gare du Nord. You arrive later

than Eurostar folk, but richer. Don't forget your passport. Queen's Park to Quimper If, instead, your bedsit is in London NW6, take the tube four stops to Paddington. The Golden Hind Pullman gets you to Plymouth, and the overnight Britanny ferry (£66 per person in a two-berth) to Roscoff. By dawn you are in Britanny, even with the uncertainties of transports ruraux you should make

Quimper by elevenses. In the

city that boasts a Musée de la

Crêpe, celebrate with a pan-

cake as mid-morning snack. Reigate to Rennes

Air France has cut many of its services from Britain, leaving only Paris and Strasbourg. But the range of regional destinations on other airlines is still wide - especially to Britanny. Bus 727 from Reigate deposits you at Gatwick, with departures to Brest, Nantes or Rennes on Brit air for £142.50

Sheffield to Strasbourg

Would you believe you can fly from Sheffield to Strasbourg? Didn't think so, especially since South Yorkshire has no airport. But head along to Humberside for Air UK's departure to Amsterdam and a connection on KLM to the home of the European parliament. Steel yourself for the fare: £220.

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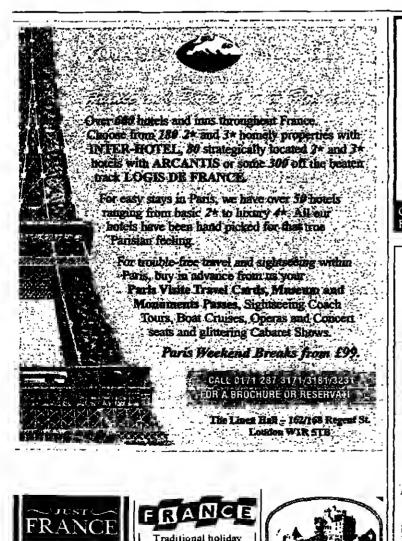
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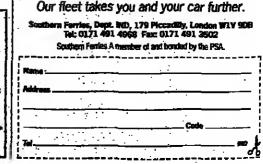
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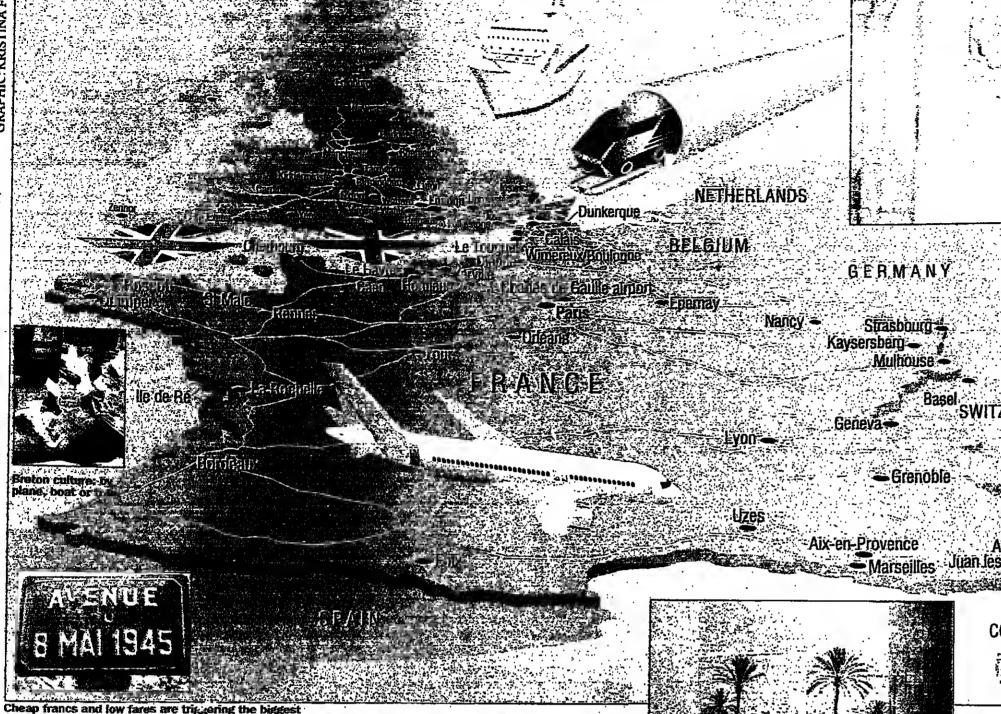
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invasion of France, 199



amworth to Tours Reports of the demise of the shipping industry at the hands of the Channel Tunnel are exaggerated. The straight-line school of motoring directs you Mans racing circuit, mas-querading as the E502. In system to provincial France involves a tiresome bus trans-July, you plus up to four co- fer between Paris amports, but

Upminster, with its 900-yearbarn, has almost as much history as the old hilltop town of Uzes. But while the medieval drivers and a car can get with persistence Avignm is across the Channel for £140.

Virginia Water to Vincennes Eurostar may still be recovering from the Channel Tunnel fire - and Waterloo from this week's electrical blaze - but the fixed link between England and France is still the best bet (£79), and transfer magically at around on the Metro.

Watford to Wimereux For destinations in the Boulogne banlieue, Hoverspeed is the best bet - its Sea-Cat purrs across from Folkestone in 55 minutes. A day return by train from Watford from the Home Counties to Junction to Folkestone costs Wimereux, four miles oorth. Vincennes - no messing enade, is still woefully over-

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(well, Ouistreham, nine miles
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the Home Counties to
the Home Counties to
fill lie de France. Reckless
travellers will allow three mintutes to connect at Waterloo
to Eurostar (not counting the 20
only a £3.20 tube ride away.
The Home Counties to
fill lie de France. Reckless
from South West Trains to
can reach Boulogne for the
day for just £2. The bus from Bevon to Jerday for just £2. The bus from Boulogne takes 20 minutes
belong the Loire even takes you down
to the lie de France. Reckless
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Boulogne takes 20 minutes
for a modest 7F, to reach
the Loire even takes you don't have to be a
current Cat's special offer
(until the end of April) you
can reach Boulogne for the
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travel • france

Farewell Manchester, bonjour Menton

indeed, the chance to see a land Dash 8 dashes you to way to Aix-en-Provence.

Charles de Gaulie, where you face another long wait for an Airbus A320 to Lyon. The air-port is on the TGV high-speed line to the south, so you can complete the trip by land at velocities almost as fast as some of the planes used for this tortuous trip. British Air- End. Zonza a hamlet north of ways' long-suffering fares unit computes a price of £260.50 to land journey, using ferries Lyon, with the change out of where necessary, covers 1.000 French capital). A De Havil- £300 getting you the rest of the miles. In contrast, St lves is but

Y eovil to Yerville

By this stage in the alphabet. you will have collected almost every crossing on the Channel. The misnamed Britanny ferry from Poole to Cherbourg costs £80 for a five-person, five-day trip, leaving you to lope through Normandy to this placid ville.

Zennnr to Zonza

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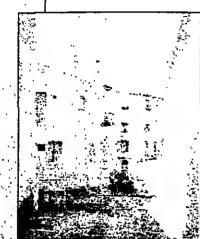
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From one extreme in England to a far-flung corner of France. Zennor is a village near Land's Porto-Vecchio in Corsica. A three tempting miles away.

trains from Edinburgh to Paris are due to start in summer - three vears late. Celebrate the first Scntland to trains in **Epernay** PHOTOGRAPH.

PATRICK



From the provinces to Provence; a week may be a inng time in Aberdeen, but it's nn time in Antibes

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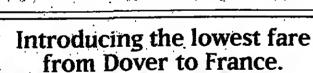
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Ryanair: 0541 569569 SeaFrance: 0990 711711 Stena Line: 0990 707070 UK rail enquiries: 0345 484950 Unijer: 0990 114114 None of the numbers above is a premium-rate service - but to call the French tourist office in London, on 0891 244123, you

pay 50 pence per minute.

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mins, fir. Bordeaux, secluded co tage, pool, ige shady gdn, amid Modoc vineyards, sips 8/9, £300-

all consuming

Under the Counter Chic to cheek

m seriously thinking of investing in a pair of very dark glasses in order to survive the next few months. Harmful UV rays I can cope with, but there is one sight which everyone should be protected from. Summed up in three little letters, it is the summer sin: VPL. VPL, or "visible panty line",

is a phenomenon that appears as soon as spring has sprung. It rises with the sap at the merest hlink of sunshine. It manifests itself most commonly at weddings, office parties, and even on primeime relevision. A recent Blind Date contestant was a textbook example. The lovely lad may not have liked the cut of her jib, but most of Britain saw the cut of her knicks as she waddled up Cilla's stairs to the losers' dressing room. His relief at not picking her. was palpahle - so was mine.

I have no sympathy for anyone suffering from VPL. This is, after all, a selfimposed affliction. Don't these people look in the mirror? Or is it the fault of complacent/well meaning/ scared partners, who to the much-voiced "I look fat in this, don't 1?", reply "of course you don't, my darling". every time.

I have never been a fan of squeeze-me-quick Lycra below the waist, so VPL was not a personal challenge that is, until this year's January sales, when I fell for a pair of skin-tight, indigo, boot-cut Sportmax trousers. They were reduced from £169 to £53, so I just bad to bave them. The assistant rather cunningly reassured me that no, I didn't look fat in them and yes, they were supposed to be that tight, and she had processed my Visa card and lovingly wrapped my hrand-new purchase in tissue, before I'd even had time to consider panty line options.

The ensuing evening gave me a new complex to mix and

match with my new trews. I spent a great deal of time in Hennes, selecting a suitable, fine g-string with which to slide into this Lycra garment, and, as this shop is such incredible value, was forced to huy a slinky Wonderbra-style hikini as well. Tops and bottoms are sold separately. so I thought, what the hell, I'll get some g-siring hottoms while I'm at it - nice to have a

sun-kissed hehind. I thought my other half would have been unable to contain himself, as I gave him a pre-bedtime fashion show. But when it came to the (Pamela-Anderson-eat-yourheart-out) g-string hikini, he hesitated, then shook his head, saying no, this was really 18-year-old-waif gear. I haven't yet got over the fact that he doesn't think I possess the hody of an 18-year-old waif. At least I can wear my g-string under my Sportmax boot-legs, and strip off to reveal it in the gym lockerroom, in the certain knowledge that most of the fat old birds in there would turn up to board meetings wearing only this piece of dental floss, if they had huttocks like mine.

There is no excuse for revealing your panty line to the world. There are solutions - be they g-strings, trouser hriefs, control-top tights, or simply nu knickers at all. Before you RSVP to your VIP party, get to the mirror ASAP, and check out that VPL. In case there is any doubt, your reflected rear should remind you of two smooth Cox's orange pippins, not a beach ball tied tightly with string.

Smoothies to get intimate with: LOGG microfibre gstring, £4.99, from H&M (Hennes), 261-271 Regent Street, London WI; Lycra and polyester "trouser knickers" with minimiser knicker-line and seam-free rear, £7, from

Lindsay Calder

Go on, cook it yourself

Help is at hand for the lazy: fast food need no longer be depressing, writes Caroline Singer

t's no secret that, while our appetite for cookery prog-rammes and glossy recipe books is at an all-time high, as a nation we are cooking less and less. TV chefs entertain more than they inform, and the inevitable books-ofthe-series end up as coffee table décor. Part of the fascination of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's TV Dinners is that he's managed to find real people who take time to concoct complicated gourmet meals in their own homes. But for the vast majority, where cooking's concerned, it's

often less hassle just to watch.
Food companies know this only
too well. Even if we do like to cook "proper" meals, there's not always time. Arriving home exhausted and hungry rarely induces a hurning desire to spend the evening slicing, dicing and marinading, so conven-ience food is a fact of life. But the ping of a microwave is a depressing sound. Few would say, hand on heart, that scalding hot, oversalted sludge sliding out of a plastic tub is their idea of a treat, and there is that slightly sheepish feeling that comes with eating something so far removed from the hands-on experience - are all those lovely Le Creuset pots just for decoration?

This is where CTY - "cook it yourself" makes its grand entrance. It takes away the hassle of preparation and planning without removing the sense uf cooking a proper, halanced meal from scratch, Bigham's Global Gastronomy, which is pioneering the concept, seems to be carving a new niche in the packaged food market. The idea is simple. You are given the raw ingredients in separate sachets, all chopped, marinaded and ready to use. By following the instructions you can have a plate of gourmet food in 20 minutes flat.

Breast of chicken in a spicy Cajun marinade with a mango and coriander salsa, and sautéed Scottish venison with mustard, boney and juniper in a cranberry and fresh thyme sauce, are just two of the meals that can be whipped up. Nothing is precooked, defrosted from frozen or pumped with preservatives. There's and emphatically no white plastic refreshing. An Italian chef would tubs with "picroe here" on their never think of using Thai spices and keep for up to a week in the fridge, pack are so easy to follow that I. Singer (0181-379 1082).



Out of the frying pan: gourmet food in twenty minutes flat

lids. This is real food, made easy. Charlie Bigham, an ex-art consultant and self-confessed foodie, is the brains behind Bigham's Global of other cultures." Gastronomy. He is enthusiastic about the concept, which, he says "came to me as I negotiated the Iran/Pakistan border". The "global" element is inspired by his expedi-tions to far-flung regions of the world. "I saw simple, delicious food being cooked up with the minimum of fuss on the streets," he recalls, "and I wanted to try to capture some

some of the mystique that sur-rounds, say, a Cambbean dish." Charlie believes that the great strength of English cuisine is its eclecticism. "Unlike countries with a country culinary tradition, such as no waste, no shopping around for France or Italy, we have no sacred cranberries and creamed coconut. Cows here any more, which is very

of the convenience and freshness of

this type of cooking, and remove

coconut, whereas over here, people and I noticed - eco-skinflint that I like Alastair Little never stop experimenting and combining the flavours

It all sounds wonderful, but how does it taste? I decided to invite a few carnivorous friends for Bangkok chicken in south-east Asian spices with coconut and cashew sauce, and sautéed Scottish venison and zesty Caribbean lamb in a lime and ginger marinade (vegetarian options are in the pipeline). It certainly seemed to be food I would happily single or double t

PHOTOGRAPH ANFDREW BUURMAN

am - that the little plastic sauce pots are just about strong enough to reuse. There are four separate components to each of the gastronomic self-assembly kits: a bag of rice or new potatoes; a hag of carrots: peeled and hatoned leeks, chopped, or green beans topped and tailed; a pot of sauce; and a pouch of marinaded chunks of meat. Plus a page of instructions.

almost felt lost when I had to put the almost felt lost when I had to put the cheese and hiscuits out without friendly advice. They tell you exactly when to put the rice on for it to be ready just as the meat has cooked through and the carrots are at their peak of al dente perfection. The smells are quite wonderful.

And the flavours are even hetter. The meat was uniformly tender and

The meat was uniformly tender and beautifully marinaded. I have never hitten into a piece of British lamh and tasted lime and ginger before, but it was an inspired and inspiring combination, which I plan to do again. The coconut and cashew sauce was aromatic, sweet and creamy, while the chicken itself had a hint of spice that balanced the flavours perfectly. The mustardy venison was, again, extremely tender, although some felt the marinade was a little too peppery

Opinions were divided as to which was the hest dish. I think the Bangkok Chicken won, hut only jus: the other two meals had strong support, too, and we all felt we had eaten inventive, interesting, high quality food that was light year away from anything we'd had out of a packet before. Global Gastronom meals are outstanding value, and welcome addition to the otherwise gloomy world of instant gruh. look forward to the vegetarian options, and to seeing the distribu-tion go nationwide, which it is set to do in the near future.

Finally, a last word for those purists who like to feel they've worked hard for their dinner party: with "cook it yourself" there's still the washing up to do. Global Gas-tronomy may be short-cut cooking. but what a wonderful way to cheat.

Bighams Global Gastronomy is availginger marinade (vegetarian options are in the pipeline). It certainly seemed to be food I would happily serve to guests at a dinner party, as well as being something I could treat myself to on a Monday night in front of the telly. And maybe, for once, I wouldn't emerge from the kitchen hot, irritable and bothered trailing the faint smell of singed martyr.

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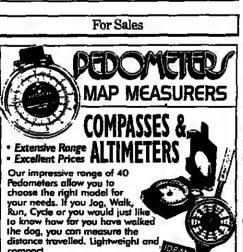
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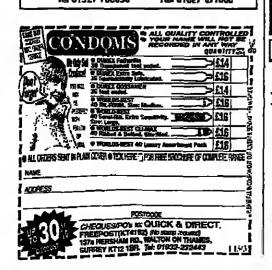
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If you really wanna put some spice into fashion

World domination continues as the Spice Girls put their name to a range of clothes. By Melanie Rickey

"hey've done everything else, so it seems only natural that the Spice Spice" (just think what £3 million in earn-Girls should consider putting their name to a range of clothes - one for each style-setting Spice, of course. What else is there for them to do? They appeared on Clive James Show last Sunday. News at Ten's "and finally..." slot on Monday, the Big Breakfast every morning. The Girlie Show last night, and that's just this week's TV. Radio airplay for their latest single is constant, and the tabloids are Spice crazy. Add to that the possibility of a Spice film (in the style of the Monkees films) and Spice Girl Dolls and we could be heading for a Spice back-lash. Heaven forfend.

The clothing range won't be on sale until carly next year when the band embarks upon their world tour (if indeed it goes into production at all). By then not

Andrew programme of the second second

Pil

ings could do to your taste in clothes). What's more the range will cataput their street cred to Mars. Who wears the Neighbours range of clothes? Zoe Ball's range?
Exactly. In reality the Spice look is available on the high street, because it existed before the Spices had sung their first zigzigha, and is available to all women to interpret in any way they please.

The Spices and the high street are well matched. Even last October at the British Fashion Awards, the girls performed their second single "Til Be There" on the catwalk when the prize for Best High Street Retailer was awarded to Oasis. On those grounds one could almost go so far as to attribute a high street store to each girl. only will impressionable five-year-olds be the core customer base, but "Baby Spice" and could be a Gucci-clad "Vamp Spice" and cottargeted by age, but more by their fash-



have noticed the Spice influence is having across TV and countless newspapers the a direct affect on sales to their core cusiomers. Warehouse believes the

Spice's have encouraged fashion conscious girls into being more daring with trends. Their target customers are 20- to 30-year-old women who are independent, urban, and earn their own money. Recently, the store has been

selling out of their camouflage print mesh dresses and tops - like the one's Mel B wears. They believe The Spice Girls have belped young women understand the way to wear fashion because instead of seeing clothes on stick thin models on magazine pages, they are seeing them on an allsinging, all-dancing role model.

A recent example of Spice fashion London W1N, 7DF. Include your home power is the Union Jack dress Geri wore address, a contact number and dress size

ion knowledge and attitude. Some stores at The Brit Awards. Since it was splashed

have renamed it The Geri Dress, and it has consequently sold out from their Top Shop coneessions up and down the country. Pictured left, they have offered a dress to the first thirty Independent readers who respond by post (with the assurance that for popular consumption the dress will be a few inches longer).

Send postcards to Geri Dress Competition, e/o Lipsy, 71 Mortimer Street.







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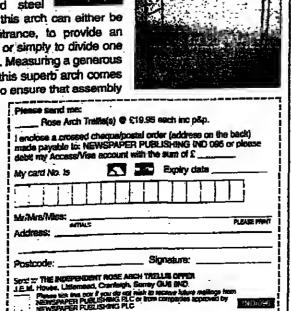
Enjoy all your favourite climbers as well as adding elegance to your garden with this superb Rose Arch Treflis.

Made in corrosion treated steel finished in dark green enamel, this arch can either be used to create a stunning entrance, to provide an attractive porch over a doorway or simply to divide one part of your garden from another. Measuring a generous 84" high x 59" wide x 14" deep this superb arch comes flat packed with full instructions to ensure that assembly

is easy. Available for just £19.95 inclusive of postage and packing, order now while stocks last.

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Midland's banking on it

Adwatch by Meg Carter

logo. Out goes the familiar fears to familiar pop tunes. golden griffin on navy blue; in comes a bexagonal symbol in red on white. What better time, then, to spend £20m on a rebranding campaign?

Midland's new advertising strategy broke last week with a return to its old "listening bank" theme, made familiar by successive campaigns throughout the Seventies and Eighties. However, the tone and style of Midland's new TV ads is approach was agreed. unlike anything the bank has ever done before.

the tradition of Mission Impos- empathetic. sible. Bank staff are seen risktrains - to respond to cus- son - we'll do it." tomers' demands.

idland Bank is chang-ing its spots. Or, to be more accurate, its singing along their bopes and

While the old campaign successfully conveyed the emotional values of the Midland brand, it did not go far enough in selling Midland as an active "doer". Peter Godfrey, the general marketing manager for Midland Bank, explains.

A rethink was called for. And after detailed consultation with bank staff and customers, a radical new

We decided to focus on wbat customers really want: a Three new commercials, very simple product which they derson, account director at St created by the advertising can easily understand. In Luke's, "The listening bank is agency St Luke's, parody financial services, the majority action adventure movies in of advertising is warm and approach has moved on - to ing life and limb - diving out become more action oriented. of planes and into water, In essence if the customer Midland personal at a time scrambling along the top of asks for something, within rea-

Each ad starts with a com- that Godfrey is in no doubt the bas moved on." plaint overheard by a Midland bank will be able to honour. employee who - after high For the new advertising and impactful approach seems drama and derring-do - deals approach bas come from a the best strategy for financial

vices, he explains. "We have sumers who are easily bored favour of a red and white listened to customer com- and confused by their wares, plaints and addressed them, changing products where nec-

essary and adding services." Midland hopes its new approach will both build loyalty amongst existing customers, and lure new business away from rivals. The hank is currently the fourth biggest in the UK, with 4.5 million current account holders - a total of 7.8 million customers when

other services are added in.

"It's an attempt to move away from the perceived complacency associated with banks in the past," says Neil Hena tremendous positioning in the market, but one that bas Midland's not been to the fore in recent campaigns. While the last one did a wonderful job in making when others appeared pompous, the new campaign is It's a grand claim. And one a declaration that Midland

Undoubtedly, a simplified with it It's a far cry from Mid- root-and-branch review of ser- services battling to win con-

and facing new competition from the self-proclaimed kings

the supermarkets. But will Midland's grand to draw a line under the old new scheme be complicated by and bring in the new." its simultaneous rehranding strategy? The timing of the have remains to he seen. two is coincidental rather than planned. The rebranding was land customers is muted, as instigated by Midland's parent. the banking and financial ser- exciting, but I'm not sure how vices giant HSBC, to harm- all of this directly relates to onise its operations in 75 countries around the world.

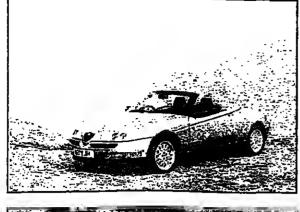
Godfrey, however, denies that dropping the griffin in my mind up.

hexagon represents much of a risk. "So far, we've had very little customer response at of Nineties service culture: all," he claims, "Besides, it offers a welcome opportunity

> What effect the strategy will Immediate reaction from Mid-Godfrey suggests, "It sall very me," said one retired customer from south London. "When that becomes clear. I'll make



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Truly, noisy,

Sports car enthusiasts have never had it so good, says Roger Bell



notably that from the excellent new

MG, intensified, Sales have in fact rocketed, to a record 3,855 in the UK last

year. Despite losing the bloom of youth, the little Muzda has cashed in on a sales

spree generated by younger rivals. The

wider the choice, the greater the inter-

est. Growth in other specialist sectors - diesel, 4x4 and MPV - has been similarly

Booms are had for buyers, as prices

are firm, discounts unlikely and deliver-

ies late. For quality, ability and variety,

though, the sports car buyer has never

had it so good. Although there were almost as many different roadsters on

fuelled.

The rest - Caterham, Morgan, TVR (but not Lotus, which didn't have an open o jump the queue for a Mercedes-Benz SLK is to line the pocket of a profiteer. Buyers who can't wait two-scater in '77) produced eclectic cars of varying ability, just as they do now. It is the arrival of other major manufactheir lum for a Lotus Elise, BMW Z3 or Porsche Boxsier may also have to pay hefty premiums. Not so long ago, the MG F was turers - BMW, Honda, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Renault and Toyon the hit list, too. When demand exceeds supply, market forces incite impatience ota - that has so dramatically improved and extravagance, not to say avarice. But beware; hubbles buoyed by fashion are apt Like Mazda, several specialists, led by Lotus (returning to its roots, with the delectable Elise), look set to capitalise on to burst messily, leaving wallets smoking, egos flagging and stocks languishing.

For all the hype that surrounds them, it the rush for cars that provide rather more than a moving experience. Here's how they run, at prices below £35,000. is not paragons such as the new Mere and Porsche that best reflect soaring interest in sports cars. Nor is it spring fever. Mazda's humble MX-5 - the model Alfa Romeo Spider credited with the roadster's revival in the The winner Alfa badly needed. Spectacular styling and plush cabin, but integrity early Nincties - is a better barometer. In a static market, interest in the MX-5 marred by crashy ride and body shake. Handling fluent by front-drive standards, if not mid-engined ones. Great engine: would have waned as the competition.

performance unspectacular for the money. Spider is charismatic and a tonic. but the stiffer, roomier GTV coupé is the better drive. Good hood. Price: £22,590, Power: 150bhp. 0-60mph: 9.0 seconds. Top speed: 125mph

Nice if you can get it. There are more than 3,000 UK buyers waiting delivery of the US-made Z3 1.9, which is more sunshine tourer than sportster. Remove the BMW badge, and the appeal diminishes. Z3 looks good and handles well - but needs more power. Macho image fostered by offer 20 years ago us there are now, in 1977 most of them came from just two a latter-day Healey 3000, due this summainstream players: BL (represented by the MG Midget/B, and the Triumph Spit-fire TR7) and Fiat 1Fiat XI/9. Alfa mer. Fine hood.

Romeo 2000 and Lancia Monte Carlo). 124mph

Caterham Seven Superlight Less a means of transport, more a pow-

ered skateboard. Cramped, stark, raucous, vulnerable.

Little car for lots of money, but twice as much won't buy more raw amusement. Tuned 1.6 Rover engine, slingshot acceleration, race-bred suspension, pin-sharp handling. Driving machines come no purer than this street-legal racer. Hood? Don't bother.

Price: £17,494 Power: 137bhp: 0mph: 4.7 sec. Top speed: 129mph.

Left-hand drive denies Punto-based Latin charmer a serious role in Britain. Chie styling, novel detailing, plenty of pizzazz, great fun. Eager. economical twin-cam engine gives Mazda MX5-beating performance. Front-drive handling not quite so crisp or tactile. A pretty, practical twoseater at a keen price. Excellent manual hood is quick and simple to operate,

Price: £15.078. Power: 130bhp. 0-60mph: 8.5sec. Top speed: 118mph

Not the pretty, enthusiast's tearaway it was in a previous incarnation. Powered, partytrick roof panel, which disappears into boot, compromises styling, leaves cabin topless rather than open. Looks awkward. and performance is nothing special since the expensive, humdinger engine was dropped. Handles well, pleasant rather than exciting to drive. Quite economical.

Price: £18.245. Power: 125hhp. 0-60mph: 9.5sec. Top speed: 118mph

pension and mid-engined balance put a beguiles. Goes well, though supercharged engine is barsh and boomy. Great grip; founder, the late Colin Chapman, would have approved. Steering, handling, agility establish new benchmarks. Performance from MG engine strong. Look elsewhere

for plush, goodies. Hood a bad joke. Price: £19,950. Power: 118bhp. 0-60mph: 6.0 sec. Top speed: 125mph.

Mazda MX-5 1.6i

MX-5 sparked sports car revival, now world's best seller. Took over where MG Midget and Triumph Spitfire - axed in old age for want of demand - left off. At its best on twisty rurals, MX-5 is a lovely mover with sharp rear-drive handling and slick shift. Economy better than performance Practical, everyday sports car. Pricier I.8i is faster, better equipped. Easy hood. Price: £14,410. Power: 88bhp. 0-

60mph: 10.5sec. Top speed: 110 nipb

Comfortable, all-purpose charmer to every-one's taste, at reasonable cost. Not as fast or knife-edged as the like-powered Elise, but quick and nimble by other yardsticks. Appeals to the poseur without alienating the enthusiast, Slug-like appearance controversial, but character, behaviour, plush cabin and MG badge generate affection. VVC model faster, 10-second hood.

Price: £16,395. Power: 118bhp. 0-60mph 8.7sec. Top speed: 125mph

Mercedes-Benz SLK

Queue-jumpers will need a big premium for stumpy, auto-only SLK - coupé or cabrio, but never a true sports. Mere qual-Price: £19,950 (first orders) Power: Lotus Elise ity, name, safety, civility and brilliant, 140hhp. 0-60mph: 8.5sec.Top speed: The best sports car in the world, if not the hard-panel headgear are the big attrac-

absence of pin-sbarp steering bows to American taste

Price: £29,500. Power: 190bbp. 0-60mph: 7.5sec. Top speed: 140mph.

More than a movin experience: MG F (above), Alfa Romeo Spider (top left) and Porsche Boxster (left)

Morgan Plus 8

Forward to the past with the fastest of Morgan's antidotes to modern motoring. Appeal rooted in vintage looks, primitive chassis and front suspension inherited from 1910 three-wheeler. Rover V8 engine rumbustious, bandling an acquired taste. comfort minimal, resale value great. Fine for strong-armed masochists. Order now for delivery in 2002. Best with hood furled. Price: £29,328. Power: 192bbp. 0-60mph 6.0 sec. Top speed: 125mph

Porsche Boxster Think of the "cheap" Porsche as a Lotus Elise with added comfort, civility, sophistication and quality. Mid-mounted flat-six engine lacks muscle, but revs with impunity and a glorious wail. Uncanny cornering powers, sharp steering, bal-anced handling (goodbye 911). Pricey auto Tiptronic less fun than manual. Cabin uninspired, zero depreciation, powered hood brilliant.

Price: £34,095: Power: 204bhp. 0-60mph: 6.5sec. Top speed: 140mph.

Renault Spider

Pricey French funster is modern version of no-frills sports car. Originally sans windscreen (protection was by bug deflec-tor and helmet). Renault's expensive rocket, more toy than transport. Low on image car now bows to convention. Stun-Lotus Elise ity, name, safety, civility and brilliant, hard-panel headgear are the big attracprettiest. Effects of light weight, great sus-

utilitarian. Hood is unacceptably basic. Price: £25,950. Power: 150bhp. 0-60mph: 6.9sec. Top speed: 135mph

Toyota MR2 T-bar Mid-engined, curvy and snug. Twin-seat Toyota too mainstream, too compromised to rival Elise on flair, whoopee, agility. Stronger on comfort, civility, equipment, safety and reliability. Performance nothing special for the price: hard-edged engine potent but frenzied. Handling now ultra-safe rather than super-sensitive. With roof panels off, cockpit is semi-alfresco.

Price: £23,225. Power: 173hhp. 0-60mph: 7.8sec. Top speed: 130mph

TVR Chimaera

Not the fastest, most expensive TVR (the ay-out Cerbera grabs those accolades), but arguably the best, especially with tweaked 4.5 Rover V8. Huge performance easily tamed, brakes and handling up to the job, steering quick, grip strong. Quality not to Porsche standards, but competes with authority as cul-price supercar. Lovely noise, cosy cockpit, natty headgear. Price: £32,950. Power: 285bhp. 0-

60mph: 5.0sec est. Top speed: 155mph est.

Westfield SEiGHT

Big 3.9 Rover V8 engine, tiny, Lotusinspired lightweight chassis; unite them and you have the fastest shoebox on wheels. Original SEiGHT was as loud as it was fearsome. Latest version is quieter. creature comforts, high on excitement.

Price: £25,950. Power: 200bhp. 0-

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It's goodbye to Mini-malism

Sadly, the era of the very small car is over. By John Simister

singing. They have been singing since late last night, which is when I returned from a long and fast journey in a very small car. It was a sophisticated very small car, well dosed with today's technology (electronic fuel injection, a catalytic converter. an airbag, side-impact bars). and furnished in luxurious fushion with wood veneer and sumptuous fabrics. But it was still noisy and humpy, because it was a Mini

A new Mini, all plushed up as even the cheapest Minis now are, will cost you £8,995. This is clearly a lot of money for an ancient design with fundamental shortcomings in smoothness and silence, even if it has been updated to suit some modern demands, and it is also a lot of money for something so small. But that is not the point. Today's Mini is not a scrious small car. a serious solution to problems of urban auto-overcrowding. It is a toy, an accessory, a bit of fun. A lot of fun, in fact.

But with the demise of the Mini in its role of spaceefficient, Minimalist, forwardlooking transport solution (its late designer, Sir Alec Issigonis, would have wept if he had known what would become of his brainchild) comes this questiun. Is there a future for the really small car? Is it relevant? Is it a great idea waiting to be rediscovered?

Mini excepted, the truly diminutive motor-car no longer exists except in Japan and Italy. Or not even Italy, in truth, if you define a car's nationality by where it is much to build as a normal size made, for Fiat's Cinquecento car, because the construction is made in Poland, where processes are similar whatever labour is cheap and the market for Minimalist motor cars is relatively strong. Tiny cars exist in Japan because their owners don't have to prove

s I write this, my cars are they bave access to a parking space - which is a big advantage if you happen to live in a Tokyo high-rise - but this is an artificial market condition. Given a free choice, Japan's small-car owners would no doubt prefer something bigger. Cars that are only fairly

small are big news at the moment, however. Last week the Geneva Motor Show was buzzing with opinions on Rover's Spiritual and Spiritual Too concept cars (which, despite appearances, do not in fact hint at the real Mini replacement, which is due in 2000), and on Mercedes Benz's A-class, which goes on sale later this year. But the real next Mini won't be as small as the original, and the A-class, for all its clever, "one box" design and genuine room for four Nineties-size adults, is also considerably more than Mini-sized.

Then there is Ford's weirdlooking Ka, just launched but yet 10 be wholeheartedly welcomed by the "early adopters" beloved of marketing folk.

It seems small, but looks can deceive. Next to a Mini, it's vast. Seat's new Arosa and its imminent Volkswagenbadged counterpart are not much smaller than the Polo to which they are related, while the arrival of the rear-engined Mercedes "Smart" car, a joint venture with the Swatch watch company (and truly small), slips ever farther away.

The fact is that car-makers don't want to build tiny cars any more. Such miracles of miniaturisation cost nearly as the car's size; and they can buyer; if a car is small, it cost more to develop, because should be cheap. That means nostalgia-tinged irrelevance, they demand more ingenuity paltry profits for its maker and soon it will die. Note its of their designers. But none of unless the car sells in vast







1960 Tg500 Tiger (top); 1964 Peel Trident (middle); 1959 Goggomobil T-400 Transporter (bottom) PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRISTIES

this cuts much ice with the car numbers, and the reward is not see its like again.

not worth the effort. Besides, today's car buyers aspire to grander things. Living standards are high, and there's relatively more money to spend than there was in the Sixties when a basic Mini was a viable family runabout. People like to show their affluence, and won't accept the noise, the discomfort and obviously - the lack of space that go with a tiny car. If they can't afford a new, larger car. they will buy something second-band instead. That was a risky strategy in the Sixties, but it makes perfect sense today because cars are better built and more durable. Then there is the safety

angle. Tiny cars are not good to crash in, because there is less structure to crumple before you do. It is this, more than anything else, that drives designers to distraction. Other, aspects of modern life militate; against microscopic motors, too; parking, for example, is increasingly defined by marked bays, cancelling a tiny car's size advantage. The prognosis is clear. Cars smaller than today's "superminis" – smaller than a Fiat Punto, a Ford Ka, a Peugeot 106 – are doomed to failure. And that is a great shame, because a tiny car can enter-

tain like nothing else. You can nip through traffic gaps that cause thrombosis to a bigger car's progress; you can revel in the agility on a twisling road that comes from minimal weight and quick reactions to the controls; you can enjoy the obvious ingenuity of the car's designer.
Too bad; the tiny car's time has gone, just like that of the bubble car before it. The Mini has been reduced to a departure well, for we shall

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Buyers flock to the dock

Londoners are looking east in the race for space. By Penny Jackson

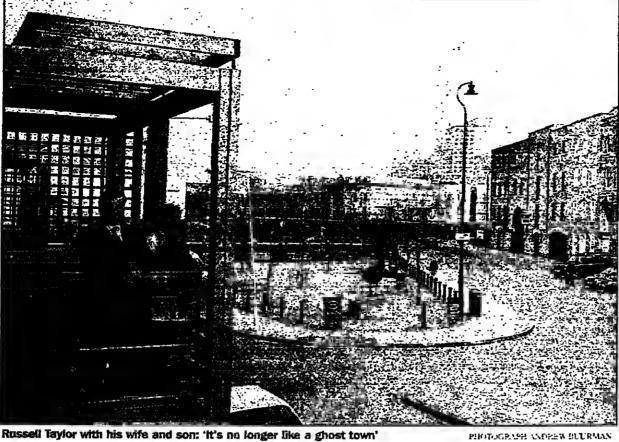
Those who had grown used in justifying their decision to live there have seen their numbers swelled by people who like the area for itself not only for its access to the not only for its access to the City and value for money, the trend will slow. The Over the past year the surge of huyers moving east has brought about a dramatic turnaround in the area.

Second-hand properties which have been languishing on agents' books are suddenly getting offers while developers are seeing half their stock disappear within days of a launch. Some vendors are asking ridiculous prices, according to agents, and anyone who fails to meet a deadline in a popular development will have the frustration of seeing the prop- have already made their move. erty sold on for about 5 per Russell Taylor of Savills. ceot more. Savills Research, in a survey of major central Lon- years before deciding a year don residential developments, ago to move with his wife and

here is a bullishness rent take-up continues, with London's those developments in the Docklands residents. pipeline or at the planning stage representing only two to three years' supply. Only last year they foresaw an oversupply of new homes in the Dock-

the appalling traffic in the West End it is quite peaceful demand for rentals continues here. It is also surprisingly to attract investors while good good for small children," he quality flats with long leases, iver views and parking are drawing disaffected owners eries - difficult though it is to away from the traditional residential areas. The shortage of lands lifestyle. He notices that property oo the market is an more people are spending obvious reason for buyers to their weekends in the area look eastwards but Savills suggest that with the arrival of the Junilee line Docklands may start to look more attractive than Putney or Fulham.

Indeed there are those who worked in Docklands for nine sees supply drying np there two-year-old soo to a house in within nine months if the cur-



"It is only recently that 1 stopped feeling defensive about the area. We still have house, that most people moving to Docklands would there is a massive shortage of things. We could do with a developments near Canary bakery and some small shops, Wharf are pulling in prime but it is changing fast. After central London huyers while Rotherhithe, believes Savills, could start to steal a march on the Isle of Dngs once the Jubilee line is up and running. adds, citing a new park oext But sites are becoming scarce door and Montessori nursin prime locations where already much of the huilding picture children in a Dockis in-fill.

Anything out of the ordi-oary is snapped up. Chimney Court, a 1920s factory in cenwhich gives it a oew vihrancy. tral Wapping, was launched "It's no looger like a ghost last week, unfinished. Four town: Somewhere like Butdays later 19 of the 41 flats had ler's Wharf is always busy now. sold. It is an unusual huilding And in our row of houses with high ceilings and huge windows, but has little in the there is more of a sense of community than there ever way of river views. It is a simwas in Fulham. We can even ilar story at Barratt's Herring up the pub opposite to mitage Waterside developbook Sunday lunch and they ment, alongside St Katherine's

Wapping and parts of Lime- British huyers, normally relicent about buying off plan. increasingly are prepared to choose to live. Also up-market put their money down on a good quality development in a prime spot. The 10 to 15 per cent new huild premium in these places is better guaranteed if the market does fall than in the cheaper properties. Savills Research finds than 82 percent of new-huild huyers in ocklands are from the UK. a higher proportion that anywhere else and quite unlike a development like County Hall which is almost all foreign owned. The criticism that British huyers of new-build are often only offered what is

Docklands, they say. Owner occupiers and investors do not always want the same things and developers of warehouse conversions knnw their market to he Dock No one has moved in almost entirely local. How-

left over from a Far Eastern

sales tour does not apply to

Katherine's Dock, riverside immediately after release, about so much being sold abroad, especially if it is poor

"If you are selling almost a whole block in the Far East, what happens if the market collapses there? In Ducklands he sees the market heing fuelled by people with money either to invest or to spend on a second home. "Those not planning to move from other parts of London are heing tempted by incredible offers on their homes. In Fulham 1 get an agent's letter every

Increasingly the area is being sold with a lifestyle attached and the integration of hotels, einemas, shops into residential schemes is regarded as its guarantee for he future. Savills suggest that the hard-learned lesson of Chelsea harbour, completed as the recession took hold, is that an active and imaginative management can see owners through the worst of times It is in areas close to Tower yet, but half the 76 townhouses ever, Tom Marshall of Clutard and is worth bearing in mind Bridge like Butler's Wharf, St and apartments went almost tons does have some concern even as they enjoy the best.

By land and water

Property by the sea is going sky-high. By Penny Jackson

ven though it is early,

Easter will give the Westcountry its first taste of the annual rush of visitors. Many - with lingering affections for the area will decide that this is the time to invest in a home away from urhan life, preferably close in the water. Those who hanker after the Salcombe estuary, though, will have to find upwards of £750,000 for one of the few houses there. The large inlet. called a rial is dorted with tiny creeks and is designated an area of outstanding heauty. There are only 30 properties, some with moorings, along that stretch of National Trust land and the last one sold by local agents Marchand Petit went for a million pounds as a second home. They are about to launch six more affordable properties, though, at Hope Cove, south Devon - a bucket and spade family

The two buildings, with three flats each, lead straight on to the sand, and a number of people are interested in them as holiday homes which can he let for as much as £100 per person in high season. The show flat is open at Easter and prices start at £92,500 for a two-hedroom

Further west, in Plymouth, what attracts most people to the Barhican is not just its proximity to the water hut that its main purpose is as a fishing harhour. There is nothing contrived about the jumble of boats that are monred there, even if the shops are more likely to sell trinkets than tackle. Some of the oldest streets

meander up to the Hoe and even though it has seen harbourside buildings converted into restaurants and bars, its commercial life is still at the centre. During the Eighties, developments of flats sprang up around Sutton Harhour but only now are they regaining their 1988 values, according to Plymouth agents Stratton Creher, who have a two bedroom first floor flat overlooking the water at ES3,950 and another at £64.95tt. A five storey house on the Hoe, looking out to the Sound, sold for just under £2000000.

Plymouth Development Corporation, which has taken over MoD property, is offering a restored shell of 18,000 square feet right on Plymouth waterfront Stratton Creber are asking for offers in the region of £275,000. In Brighton, investors are huying into Barrat's waterside development at the Marina. One couple recently bought one flat for themselves and two identical ones for investment as Brighton has a very healthy short-term rental market. Prices range from around £57.995 with duplexes starting at £138,995.

In London, it is not just the Thames that offers waterside living. Regalian has converted the Grade II listed Gilbery House, originally a gin distillery, into 75 apartments with views over the Regent's Canal. It has a dramatic central courtyard stretching a full six storeys from the first floor to the open air. It has private underground parking and a leisure centre. Prices range from £99,000 to £510,000.

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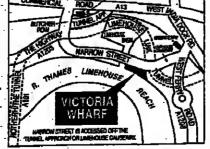
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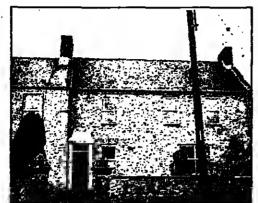
Houses of Parliament

Rosalind Russell mixes property and politics

n the four years since Tony and Cherie Blair have owned their Victorian semi in fashionable Barnsbury, north London, the house may have "earned" more than the Labour leader's annual salary. Reported to have cost £250,000 when they bought it, the Blairs' house is now valued at nearer

bought it, the Blairs' house is now valued at nearer to £500,000 by local agents. They have another, much more modest home in Trimdon Colliery, a village in Tony Blair's Sedgefield, Co Durham constituency. Meanwhile, John and Norma Major's house in Great Stukeley, in Major's Huntingdon constituency, is worth about £300,000, a rise of £100,000 since 1990 when prices went into freefall. In their Country Residential Review, the agency Knight Frank predicts a price hike of 25 per cent nationally over the next three years. And despite their warning of a prohable two-to-three-month pause in the market in the runup to the general election, husiness is hrisk. Such is the shortage of property, "even the old dogs are selling", beams one Home Counties agent, cheerfully confident that his hlue-rinse clients will never know his true opinion of their homes. opinion of their homes.

But there are dramatic variations in price movements around the country. The West Mid-lands and Wales have had varied fortunes. Parts



Left wing: No 5 Trimdon Hall Farm

remains flat. In Scotland, a good-sized farmhouse will sell in weeks, but the market is awash with castles owned by people who, KF say, have "unreal-istic vendor expectation relative to demand".

Dire warnings about what may happen to the property market if Labour get in have been a fea-ture of the previous two general elections. They of the West Midlands have seen healthy increases, especially for cottages, but in Wales the market unable to wave a bogey of high interest rates at

home owners who have struggled through year of negative equity, reduced mortgage interest relief and job insecurity. As most high-street estate agents will tell you, most people think it's irrele-vant who wins: they'll buy or sell anyway, according to personal circumstances.

Whatever the outcome, you can barely slide a cigarette paper between the two leaders' constituencies wheo it comes to house prices. East Anglia and what Knight Frank describes as "the hinterlands of Durham" are both popular, prosperous areas. Sedgefield is no more flat-cap and pigeon-loft territory than Huntingdon is.

"Sedgefield has a country feel to it," says David Mills, of Reeds Rains. "It is a small market town, a hit of an oasis in Co Durham, which has many ex-mining communities. The schools are good, there is a racecourse and good local shops, and we

have more pubs per capita than anywhere else. It is a fairly well-off community."

Home owners around Sedgefield commute to Durham or to Darlington, about 10 miles either way, but the area has also benefited from the new Japanese Samsung electronics factory in the North-east. Houses costing more than £100,000 are thin on the ground because people who own them

are happy to sit tight.

Ken Walton, married with two children, and



Right wing: Thatched Abbots Barn

manager of a nursing home, bought a three-bed-room, semi-detached house in Sedgefield for £56,000. "It had been valued at £65,000. And when I've built an extension, with a garage, bedroom and kitchen, it'll be worth £90,000. With an election coming up, I hope the rates stay much the same. If Labour get in, I think they will. If the Conservatives get in, I think they'll go through the roof." Peter Lane, of Peter Lane & Partners in Hunt-

ingdon, could do with a few more homes like John Major's. There just aren't enough to satisfy

Major's. There just aren't enough to satisfy demand. But be has found the Prime Minister a new neighbour. Geoff and Anne Beaver are buying the £220,000 three-bedroom bungalow opposite the Majors' home in Great Stukeley.

"We wanted a home close to the Al, which this is, because as an insurance broker I do a fair bit of travelling," says Geoff. "I think it was mentioned in the particulars about the Majors living opposite, but that is not why we are buying it. We liked Great Stukeley hecause it is a real village, with a village hall and pub and a life of its own."

If John Major loses the next election, there is a minor consolation. Knight Frank predict that East Anglia and the oeighbouring East Midlands will see the strongest house price appreciation in the UK during the next three years.

the UK during the next three years.

No 5 Trimdon Hall Farm dates back to at least 1718. The four-bedroom house, close to Trimdon village green, has been extended and modernised. Reeds Rains are asking £114.500. Thatched Abbots Barn in Hemingford Abbots, near Huntingdon, dates from 1631. It has been extended to include three bedrooms. There are inglenook fireplaces in the sitting room and dining room. A thatched barn has planning permission for a self-contained unit. Peter Lane is asking £155,000.

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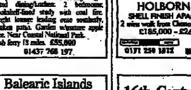
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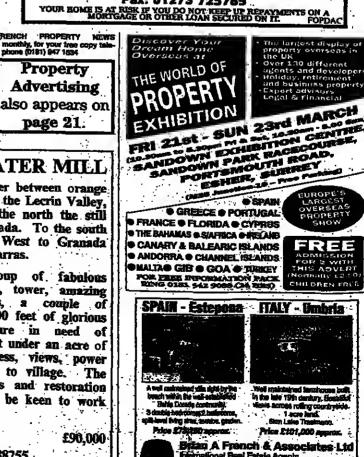
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Property is hot again

Rachel Fixsen reports on how not to get your fingers burnt

it is second only to the old chestnut "safe as houses". But things look very different in the property market these may he no immediate buyer for that pardays. Residential property prices are forecast to leap by up to 12 per cent this year after an 8.8 per cent rise last year. Commercial property has also picked up.

Should you take a fresh look at the property market as a way of boosting your savings, or does it still have too many

Buying units in a property unit trust lets you reap any benefits of a rising market. but dodge many of the pitfalls of direct investment in bricks and mortar.

"Anyone can buy a small shop and let. it out, but it is paved with stupendous difficulties for the small investor and carries a very high risk," says Peter Smith, regional director of independent financial advisers Hill Martin.

Trying to let and manage a property on

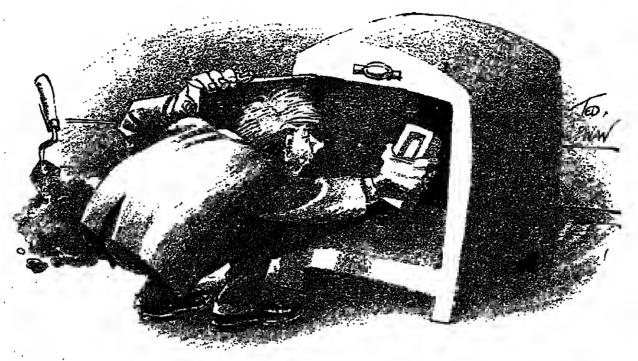
nyone with negative equity will guffaw at the term "property as an investment". For real belly laughs

your own could prove a nightmare.

Another serious problem with buying a building as an investment is that it is illiqued. building as an investment is that it is illiq-uid-which means it is hard to turn it back ticular property.

Valuation is a further obstacle for property as an investment. Valuing the share of a listed company is easy, because you can compare it to the thousands of identical sales made each day. But property valuations can turn out to be hopelessly wrong. They are no more than somebody's opinion of what a huilding

might fetch.
With a property unit trust, on the other hand, you can sell your units for cash at any time. And they are simply worth a proportion of valuations of the trust's underlying properties. Unless the trust ran into serious difficulties, it would not actually have to sell its assets to give you your money hack.



property unit trusts.

The Barclays Unicorn trust holds 80 per cent of its assets in property, mostly offices and shops with some retail warehousing and industrial huildings. The other 20 per cent is held in property shares and other liquid assets.

John Kelly, investment director of the Barclays Unicorn trust, admits the UK property market still has its black spots. There are still some valuations that are 20 per cent less than at the height of the Eighties," he says.

But all huildings are not the same. "As Barclays Unicorn and Norwich Union long as you have a reasonable location

Trust Managers both run authorised and a flexible building structure, you're seeing relatively good growth."A flexible office huilding structure could be easily adapted to accommodate a certain type of technology, for example.

Mr Kelly says Unicorn property trust should yield between 10 and 12 per cent this year, with between 6 and 8 per cent coming from rental income, and the rest from capital growth. You can invest upwards of £1,000 in the Barclays Unicorn operty trust.

Norwich Union's unit trust, which has a slightly higher proportion of liquid assets, has the same minimum investment. A new breed of quoted property unit

trust is due to launched this summer. Hopes are high that this new investment vehicle could hreathe new life into the commercial property market, by increasing liquidity. You could also invest in property indirectly by buying shares in companies which manage property. Share prices in this sector have shot up in the last few months.

Ray Jones, property analyst at stock-broker UBS, says shares in property firms outperformed the broader stock market by 10 per cent in 1996, on the back of stabilisation of the direct property market at the end of 1995.

Property shares produced an average warns Mr Smith.

return including dividends of more than 28 per cent in the last year, according to Salomon Brothers' UK property securities index. Capital Shopping Centres would have given a massive 75 per cent

Mr Jones sees a steady trend towards growth for property shares in general. But there are areas where shares will do better than this. Companies owning central London offices, particularly in the West End, and firms with large regional shop-ping centres are poised for above average

returns, he says.

British Land, Capital Shopping Centres, Chelsfield and Pillar Property Investments are four which sull look good value. according to Mr Jones.

Property is often seen as an "anti-cyclical" investment, meaning it goes against the grain of the prevailing economical trend. So if you're betting on a had year for stocks, particularly given the looming general election, property could be a good safe haven for your money.

But investing in property is largely for the well-heeled. Equities offer a much more suitable deal for those with an investment portfolio of less than £100,000. advisers say, "It's just less flexible." says Roger Harris of independent financial advisers Roger Harris & Co. "Property unit trust units can be sold fairly easily. but there's always the possibility of delaying any sale." He adds that a delay could he up to six months.

Charges levied on property unit trusts can sometimes he quite high. Mr Harris says. This is largely due to the cost of managing properties.

And some are duhious that the property market recovery is as solid as is often proclaimed.

"I think it is a chastening walk through the City of London ... I'm staggered at the number of completely obsolete properties which are dark and shuttered.

American tips worth noting

Analysis of tipsheets shows that many positively harm their readers' wealth. Such titles can be a profitable business, but can they be of profit to investors?

an investors hope to make any money out of following stock market tipsheets? We do not have a great tradition in this country of tipsters offering share tips through newsletters, as, they do in the United States.

There it is a big business, with literally hundreds of titles. So much so that the market is able to support newsletter, Hulbert's Financial. Direct, which does nothing else but analyse the performance of other investment newsletters!

Although a few (such as those produced by Martin Zweig) are excellent, well-researched ublications as good as anything on Wall Street, many of the American newsletters are very poor quality indeed, produced by individuals with few qualifications and little experience to back up their advice. Careful analysis by Mr Hulbert over many years has shown that only a handful of titles consistently offer advice which is profitable to investors.

More precisely, while many newsletters inevitably pick some winning individual stocks, anyone who followed all the advice that the tipsters have offered would be . . unlikely to have made any money from the exercise. On average, the number of dud recommendations greatly outweighs the tips which have come good, very much as happens with racing tipsters.

Some - perhaps most - are positively harmful to their readers' wealth, but this does not stop them romoting themselves assiduously ith promises of great gains ahead often based on the most extraordnarily selective accounts of their past performance.



Jonathan Davis

How do they get away with it? The US Supreme Court, no less, ruled in a landmark case in 1985 that even amateurs who produce newsletters are in effect exempt from the investment Advisors Act, and therefore from regulation. The First Amendment, the court decided. provides them with the right to peddle their tips, whatever their track record. The principle of caveat emptor - or buyer beware - remains, in the great American tradition, splendidly sacrosanct.

Such a laissez faire regime seems unlikely to catch on here, where the tradition of regulation is entrenched and the law/regulatory system goes to huge - and frequently futile lengths to protect individuals from their own capacity for financial folly.

One of the longest surviving - and perhaps the best known - pure ipsheet in the UK is the Fleet Street Letter. This has had a chequered history over the years, but has the distinction of being the vehicle through which two millionaire husinessmen - Nigel Wray (the rescuer of Saracens rugby club) and Michael Green (the hoss of Carlton

Communications) - first obtained a quotation on the London stock market. In the right hands a successful newsletter can become a very profitable husiness indeed.

What we do have in this country is a fairly long tradition of tipping shares in newspapers. How good are they? Mike Mitchell has had the hright idea of analysing the performances of tipsters, tracking all the individual tips made by specialist newsletters and in national newspapers - and seeing how they performed subsequently. His findings, which he publishes as a regular newsletter of his own called Tiptracker (0181-747 9497), make for interesting reading.

Apart from the usual problems involved in measuring performance many tipsters are notoriously good at hedging their bets, making it hard to pin down what they are saying - two things are clear from his analysis.

One is that the newspaper tipsters, by and large, fare less well at picking stocks than the best specialist newsletters. (An honourable mention here to Quentin Lumsden, for many years a columnist on the Independent on Sunday, who also produces two newsletters, Chart Breakout and Quantum Leap, which both have shown a strong recent track record in spotting small company growth stocks.)

The second - and perhaps more surprising - finding in Mr Mitchell's analysis is that there do appear to be one or two specialist titles which do, on recent evidence, have rather good track records at spotting winners. Apart from Mr Lumsden's titles, he particularly rates the performance of Analyst, a monthly publication

produced by a former stockbroker, Jeremy Utton, and a team of other former broking analysts.

I can vouch for the fact that Analyst is a serious and wellregarded title which attempts to apply rigorous investment appraisal techniques to the task of picking smaller company growth stocks. Mr Utton has a relatively conservative investment approach, and the style and pricing of the publication (£97.50 for new subscribers, £120 a year thereafter) marks it out as a cut above the "heard it in a pub" style of tipsheet further down the market.

How good is it? Well, last year, according to Tiptracker, the 51 shares tipped by Analyst produced an overall gain of 18.9 per cent, which compares with a 12.9 per cent gain on the FTSE All share index. (But note that the analysis takes no account of dividends, which add a further 3 to 4 per cent a year to the total return on the market.)

Most tipsters prefer to trawl among smaller quoted companies. which have little or nothing to show by way of dividend. Of Analyst's tips last year, just over one in three produced gains of more than 30 per cent. At least three stocks doubled during the year. But 21 tips failed to show any gain at all. Is a two-to-five ratio of losers to winners good or had? Clearly, nobody should expect a ticket to riches for just £120 a year.

But the better publications, such as Analyst, can be valuable additions to the investor's armoury. Anvone who thinks, however, that they are going to get rich solely by following tips in a newsletter - as thousands of Americans apparently do - obviously needs to think again.



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It's a nice little urna

Collect to invest: John Windsor finds Buddhist art enlightening

be Chinese are coming. The explosion of wealth in newly liberalised mainland China has already created 55 billionaires, and this month's second International Asian Art Fair in New York is expected to be a

How long before we spot raffish, over-the-collar "Chinese" harrouts – as close-cropped, Westernised Hong Kong auctioneers have dubbed the mainland fashion - at auctions of Chinese art in London? Unable to wait, I visited the London oriental art gallery of John Eskenazi and hegged him: "Teach me to love the Buddha.

After all, those impassive faces of gilthronze seated oriental Buddhas with allseeing urnas in their forehead are not easy on the Western eye. Mr Eskenazi provided the antidote. He threw open what looked like a huilt-in wardrobe.

Spotlights clicked on inside, illuminating a resplendent, 3ft-high early 15th century

Tibetan Vajradhara, gilded bringer of enlightenment. "You can feel the beatitude," he said. Indeed, I could. In the market for Buddhist art, love and money, the spiritual and the material, are interlinked.

The more spiritual the appearance, the more valuable. The first thing that dealers and auctioneers look at - even before age and condition - is the Buddha's face. Then the hands. Serenity and compassion sell. Ugliness does not. Mr Eskenazi says: "All the best pieces have an inner tension, a divine quality. They make contact with one's inner self."

I saw more Tibetan than Chinese Buddhas in the top London galleries. Dealers, many of them passionate connoisseurs who are really collectors in disguise, seem to prefer the Tibetans' more forceful and complex spiritual values to the restrained simplicity of the Chinese.
But new Chinese collectors – whose

ancestors employed the finest Tibetan and Nepalese craftsmen - will nevertheless

GROWTH

want to buy Chinese Buddhas first. In London at present both are undervalued good news for Brits who cannot afford £120,000 for a big 15th century figure.

At Christie's South Kensington, six to seven-inch high gilt-bronze Buddhas from the 11th to the 18th centuries, still with a respectable amount of gilt on them, can be had for £400-£500. Two years ago, they were fetching only £200-£300. You might still get a 16th century bronze Buddha for as little as £200 - a ludicrously low price for an object individually modelled in clay then cast by the lost-wax process.

A wax model with a clay core was encased in a clay jacket and baked, so that the wax ran out, leaving a cavity to be filled with molten bronze. A few Chinese mainlanders are already attending London auctions in person hut hardly any Tibetans can afford to. The bidding is as yet dominated by dealers, notably the Tai-

wanese and Hong Kong Chinese.
South Ken's specialist, Nader Rasti, says:

"Prices bave got a long way to go." Especially if British private buyers step in. Beginners with limited experience could specialise in specific, affordable types of Buddha, such as those of the Qianlong (pronounced "chen-lung") reign (AD1736-1795) during the Qing ("ching") dynasty.

Some 10 per cent of the edition of

21,000 made then is thought to have survived. They are quite charming, six to seven inches high, with reign marks including date in Chinese characters on their base. Expect to pay from £200 for the battered to £1,200 for fine specimens.

Or, for £1,000-£2,000, both at auction or in galleries, go for bronze Buddhas of the same size dating from two Ming dynasty reigns – Yongle (AD1403-1424) and Xuande (AD1426-1435) – during which the standard register reached a peak. Gilt-bronze versions will cost you £2,000-£5,000 - but the higher price carries more sustainable value.

For the past 15 years it bas been pottery, not bronze, that has caught the attention of Eastern and Western collectors, ever since Chinese treasure hunters began looting antique pottery from graves, smuggling it out of Hong Kong. They boosted demand for newly exca-

vated wares such as those magnificent Tang borses (AD618-906) - but flooded the market. Only in the past three years, with the establishment in mainland China of over 100 state-led auction houses, has there been a shift in taste - towards painting and calligraphy.

The auction of excavated goods is forbidden. And at those auctions there is scarcely a bronze Buddha to be seen. Good news or bad? In fact, almost all China's surviving bronze Buddhas, of which infinitely fewer were made than pottery wares, are in the West - beyond the

London: Can the Swedish either Anders Zom's volatile women be trusted with a little flutter? His

alturing nudes are back in Sotheby's print sale in London, Thursday (10.30am). Cubism with a

Czech accent: Picassoesque paintings by avant-garde artists who formed the Group of Plastic

Artists in Prague In 1911 are In Sotheby's midseason Impressionist and modern sale, Wednes-day (10,30am). In the same sale:

he Square Mile must

the Cheltenham

too. But, judging by the number of brokers, fund

managers and investment

National Hunt course in the land. Threadneedle Street .

and Throgmorton Avenue

This City preoccupation

bankers thronging the

terraces of the greatest

must have been empty.

with racing and, by assoc-

iation, gambling is a little

problems at NatWest

bookie. Still, all that

Markets, I would have

worrying. Given the recent

thought any self-respecting

trader would not have been

seen dead within a mile of a

corporate hospitality must

make it bard to stay away.

the potential dog food at

on whether there is still a

turn to be made on the out-

come of the general election.

Derivatives broker GNI

has produced an interesting tome termed The GNI Guide

information, quite a lot of

that 32 days is the average

period between announcing

and the actual polling day.

This suggests that we may

which is new to me. It seems

contains much useful

Failing to make money on

Festival I cannot be sure. I was at Cheltenham

Selling serenity: John Eskenazi with Buddha

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MACDIARMID

reach of any clampdown on exports from Hong Kong after the June hand-back.

Remaining above ground, those that were not sold off in the late 19th century were lost in wars, destroyed or stolen by the Japanese invaders of 1939 or discarded during the Cultural Revolution of 1968-78, when it was illegal to own art. No Buddhas in China means no Buddha market there.

Kensington, Wednesday (10.30am) and Bon-hams, Wednesday (3pm). Countrywide: Altrincham: Sale by tender of small

totungwide: augmentain: Sale by tender of small lots of miscellaneous toys, fuesday, at Blue Chip Park. Elliot Partnership (0161-926 9884). Dar-laston, Walsall: High quality British-made footwear Thursday, at Lynedene Manor Industrial Estate, Capital Estates (0123-526 6917).

Taunton: Toys, militaria, coins, stamps, pho

Do the Chinese really want them? Is not modern Chinese materialism more suited to Confucius than Buddha? I got the most bullish answer from the London dealer Michael Goedhuis. "The point is Chinese Buddhas are Chinese. That is why they are going to want them. Ever since the fifth and fourth centuries BC, collecting has been a cultural passion in China, with bronze and jade the two pillars of the culture.

"When the new rich Chinese have bought their big houses and cars they will ... revert to their old pattern; bear down upon the West and suck back all their cultural goods. A lot of people here are not aware how fast people in China are making money. All Chinese art is going to be

very expensive."

All that is lacking is the liberal granting by the Chinese authorities of foreign tourist visas - decreed in principle last November. Chinese wanting to travel abroad endure interminable interviews. Few visas are granted. Yes, the Chinese are coming. But at the moment some of them are baving a little difficulty.

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There are other PEPs with no entry or exit charges. But not one of them bests our ten year performance of 271 That's an average of 14°, a year, froe of lax. And all you pay on the way in is 0.5% Government stamp duty.

tographs, toys, Tuesday, Lawrence Fine Art, Mag-dalene Street (01823 330567). Manichester: mass-produced Picasso ceramics. Sotheby's contemporary art. Thursday (2,30pm). More Pi-casso crocks at Christie's South Kensington Im-Lesney Matchbox toys Wednesday, Ca 38 Charles Street (0161-273 1911). pressionist and modern sale, Monday (2pm). Three musical instrument sales this week, the biggest at Sotheby's, Tuesday (10.30am), with 450 instruments. Others at Christie's South Antiques Trade Gazette, and Government Auction News (fax Information line 0336-423488). JW

Under the hammer: what's up for auction next week



More importantly for investors, they have examined polls of fund managers - and have conducted their own surveys - to try to discover what the movers and shakers of the City believe will

happen after the election. Not surprisingly, more investment professionals think the market will go down than up if the Labour Party is triumphant. The percentage that are ssimistic for stocks and Cheltenham led me to reflect shares rises dramatically if the majority is large. A surprise Conservative win would be taken as a rally call for the market - or so respondents almost universally to the UK General Election. It believe. Investment managers are clearly taking their lead from 1992 when

the Tory victory led to a 136point jump in the Footsie. Less consistent is the belief. the date of a general election that sterling would fall under Tony Blair. Given that many consider an interest rate rise not hear when the election is more likely under Labour than the Conservatives, this

Back from Cheltenham, the City is now placing bets for after the election

seems unlikely. Also, so far as both sterling and the market are concerned, if people are nervous, why are we not seeing selling pressure now?

. It is not too difficult to answer that last question - at least as far as share prices :. are concerned. We know from recent surveys and from the problems faced by some fund managers such as PDFM that institutional liquidity is reasonably high. With positive cashflows continuing, there is plenty of money overhanging the market. This situation will be exaggerated further by the windfall issues of shares in building societies and insurance companies as they give up their mutual status. There are plenty of potential buyers out there.

So where does the money go? Construction has traditionally been a fruitful sector to back under a Labour administration. Spending money on infrastructure projects is a

quick way of creating starting the economy - as if it really needs it.

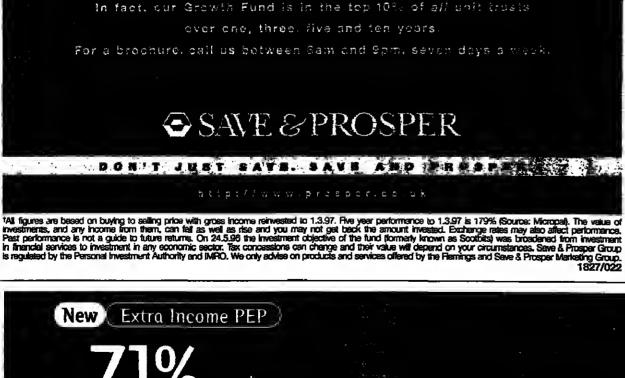
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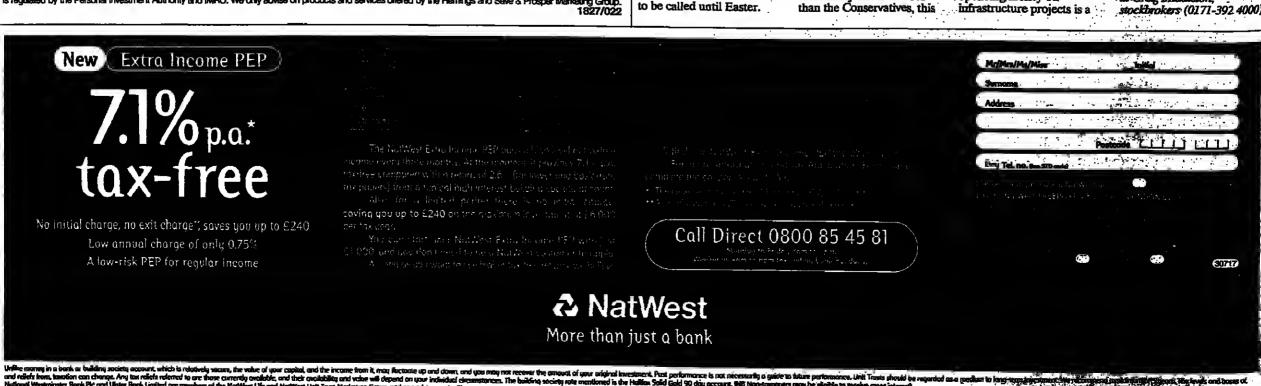
Then, of course, we can expect some redistribution wealth, so the less well off may have more money to spend. This could be good news for retailers like Kinglisher, though perhaps the knock-on effect will not extend as far as Harrods. Also, some other leisure sectors may benefit, such as breweries, particularly if they bave holiday interests as well, as Scottish & Newcastle do with Centre Parcs.

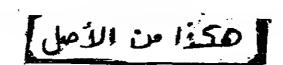
There will be sectors to avoid, of course. Utilities stand out, given the declared intent to levy both a windfall. tax and to tighten regulation. But this has already been well signalled and may have been factored in the price. Railway operators could fall into this situation, although there are doubtless efficiend gains still to be made following privatisation.

Then again, given the increasing difficulty that many of us are finding in spotting the difference between Labour and Tory policies, perhaps we can just continue as we are. But that wouldn't be good for bus-iness in the City, would it?

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton. stockbrokers (0171-392 4000)







هكذا من الأصل

Repay us when it suits you

Mortgages are becoming more flexible, writes Nic Cicutti

ortgages are easy to understand, right? You take out a loan and then pay back a certain amount every month for the next 20 or 25 years. This simple type of mortgage has been the mainstay of the home loan market for more than a century.

Yet for many borrowers, the requirement to pay a fixed amount each month, seemingly in perpetuity, has always been one of the most unattractive features of buying a house.

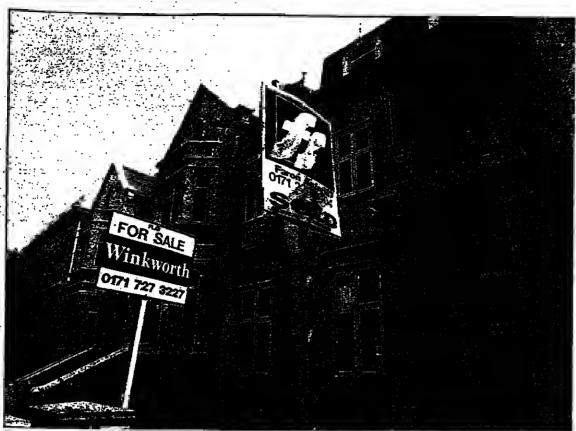
Until recently, the response of lenders was similar to Henry Ford. When asked whether his first car, the Model T, was available in a choice of colours, he was said to have replied: You can have any colour you like, as long as it's black."

Today, however, more and more lenders have entered the market with a range of flexible mortgages, offering greater repayment choices to consumers. Not before time.

As Vicky Burn, deputy editor of Money Facts, says: "For the majority of us, the largest purchase we ever make is buying a home. It is therefore important to choose a mortgage to suit each person's financial situation.

"Flexible mortgages are intended to give loans that suit borrowers' circumstances both now and in years to

The principle behind flexible mort-



Big decision: A house is the largest purchase you ever make, so choose the right loan PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BULLEY

gages is simple. In various ways, they allow borrowers choices as to how they repay their loan. This can be useful in cases where people may face sudden

extra costs, such as having a child. For example, Bank of Scotland offers loans which allow borrowers worth up to the equivalent of six the option of overpaying each month

to reduce the scale of their loan. Minimum £500 lump-sum repayment options are available. This can be bandy if, as with many, you come in for a small windfall.

BoS also allows underpayment months' instalments, plus a choice of

instalment options. Finally, the bank offers the possibility of lump-sum withdrawals of the mortgage already paid. BoS currently operates a variable rate of 7.24 per cent.

Legal & General Mortgage Services, the insurance company's home loans arm, also offers over and underL&G's current variable rate stands at 6.49 per cent, with toans on offer based on up to 95 per cent of a home's value. Scottish Widows, another insurer, recently launched its own flexible

payment options, plus lump-sum withdrawals, up to the available

reserve in the mortgage account.

mortgage, which offers overpayment options - but with a minimum lump sum of £2,000. No underpayments are allowed, but withdrawals of at least £1,000, based on a single monthly cheque, can be taken from the loan account. Scottish Widows' mortgage is offered at a variable rate of 6.73 per cent, on up to 80 per cent of a home's value. Stroud & Swindon, a relative min-

now among building societies, has entered the flexible market with a 7.25 variable interest rate on up to 85 per cent of the bome's value. The society allows any overpayment, no underpayments, but a withdrawal

facility from the mortgage account. In addition, borrowers are given further incentives, including up to 3 per cent of the mortgage advance, plus free valuation and legal costs. Incentives of this type are available from many other flexible mortgage lenders.

Another option available is that of payment holidays. These are on offer from Bank of Scotland, First national Building Society, Legal & General, Market Harborough and Tipton &

Coseley building societies.

Two lenders, Woolwich and Abbey National, offer a variant on this theme. Instead of allowing over and underpayments, or cash withdrawals, they simply offer payment holidays.

back discounts when you use it. There are other examples but they are far too few, If these companies were to spend less time thinking up nonsensical ideas and

my life, and yours too, would be a lot better. edicated readers of these pages will recall Paula Martin, the willing victim of our first financial makeover

concentrating on the simpler things in life,

After the story appeared, Paula was offered compensation for her trouble from one company. Now the second one involved. Lincoln National, has been in touch to say her case will be resolved by them too.

A happy ending for one victim of the pensions mis-selling scandal. Now there are rest of the industry. It's enough to keep us in

Flexible mortgage providers

Bank of Scotland Clydesdale Bank First National BS Fumess BS Legal & General Market Harborough Scottish Widows Stroud & Swindon Sun Banking Corp Tipton & Coseley **UCB** Homeloans

Monthly underpayment Within reserve Within reserve Fixed for 2 yrs

Source: MoneyFacts

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"reward" points from their issuer. Who says so? Well, surprise, surprise, this nugget came from a poll carried out by a card issuer offering a credit card with lower Never mind that the majority of people rarely, if ever, go into debt with their credit card. For them reward points are a bonus.

hree-quarters of credit card holders

on their card debts than receive

would rather pay a lower interest rate

Meanwhile, three-quarters of card holders are afraid to go shopping with real money. Or is it three-fifths, or four-ninths? Who cares? Originating that scintillating research this week was a bank pushing its own credit card.
Is it really true that fear is driving us all
towards a cashless society? Take a sneak look

at the till in your local supermarket, then come back and tell me about it. There's more: 95 per cent of the British public agreed with the proposition that their



products miss the point investments should help rather than harm the world. The poll was carried out on behalf

of a firm which - oddly enough - offers a range of ethical investments. Why are we personal finance journalists inundated by upwards of half a dozen similar

There are a number of possible reasons.

mindless "opinion polls" each week?

The first is that my colleagues and I are so stupid that any old rubbish will appear in our The surveys pages. By and large I discount that theory.
A second possible reason is that PR that come with new companies are themselves so stupid that they

think we will fall for the dross they send us. I am more inclined towards that possibility. Probably most compelling, however, is another argument. It is that the vast majority of financial products are the same. Variations are so minor that companies are forced into

Ironically, when better products do appear, people flock to them. Look at Virgin's low-cost PEP. Or Direct Line, which led the way in car and home insurance. Or Nationwide, which cut the cost of its variable home loans last year and picked up business. Or Sainsbury's, the supermarket chain,

increasingly shrill attempts to sell their wares.

which offers a simple, no-frills savings account. Or Alliance & Leicester, which has iust launched a credit card offering moneyfour weeks ago, who had been mis-sold a personal pension.

only 500,000 more cases to go throughout the financial makeovers for another 9.615 years.

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Investors Chronicle 24th January 1997

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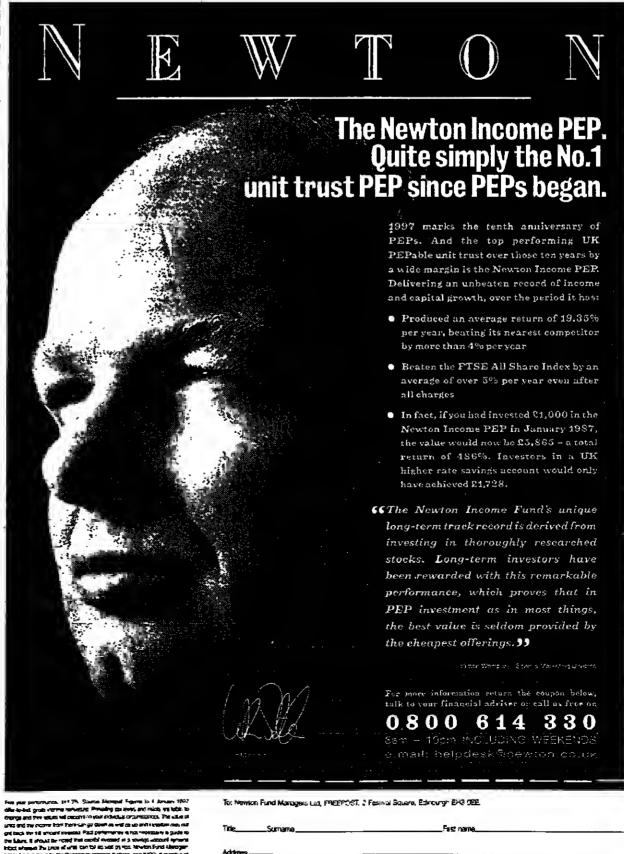
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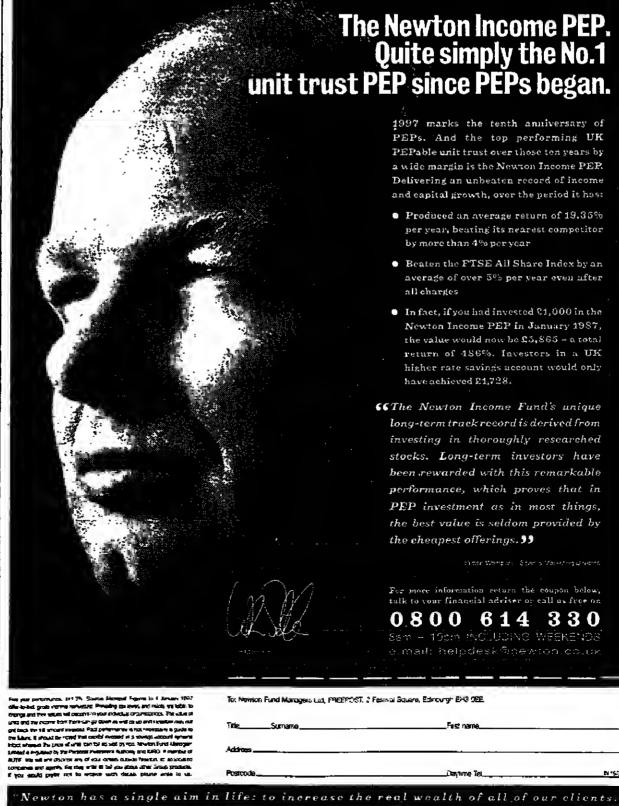
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Nothing ventured, no tax gained

Nic Cicutti on the advantages and pitfalls of investing in Venture Capital Trusts

ax avoidance is a sport often favoured by those who earn so much money that they could probably afford to donate a few pounds to the Inland Revenue. But if you don't have to hand the taxman a chunk of your savings, why should you? Especially when there are ways of avoiding tax and making even more money at the same time. This is where Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) come in.

VCTs, introduced by the Government two years ago, are similar to investment trusts. Their aim is to promote investment in relatively small. unquoted companies. Companies that qualify for investment must not be quoted on any stock market, except the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

The beauty of VCTs is that, compared to investment trusts focusing on smaller companies, subscribers for new ordinary shares in the trust receive income tax relief set at 20 per cent. as long as they are held for at least five years. In effect, a £100,000 investment costs £80,000.

Income from the trust itself is tax-free, plus all gains at disposal. Furthermore, if shares are bought with the proceeds from the sale of an existing asset which may be liable to capital gains tax (CGT), this will allow the investor the right to "roll-over relief" - deferring payment of tax - on the asset.

are tax-free, minimising those transferred into spread the risk over three or four trusts.

losses can offset the original gain. Or, funds can be dribbled out after five years, up to the investor's annual CGT exemption.

Minimum investment in some trusts is just £3,000. The maximum investment against which full tax relief can be claimed is £100,000 per tax year. It is possible to invest in more than one trust, with tax relief applying to the combined investment. To receive the 20 per cent tax relief, shareholders must send the tax certificate they receive from the VCT company to the Inland Revenue. If the trust is sold within five years, the tax relief granted is repayable. There are also stringent criteria as to the qualifying areas trusts can invest in.

The question remains: which VCTs should investors be looking at? Last year. 12 trusts raised more than £160m and, according to the Aaron Partnership, a firm of financial advisers based in Milton Keynes, 10 of these are raising more money. David Aaron, a senior partner, says the key factor in picking the right trust is the experience of the manager investing in the smaller companies. Managers should also be in a position to choose between - and reject the majority of - deals offered to them.

Mr Aaron says: "Avoid companies that invest in too many start-up ventures because While all capital gains made in the trust itself these have much higher risks. It is wise to

it involves selling the trust at a time when other
Choose the larger trusts for most of your investment, as they will give a bigger spread."

For investors who are prepared to accept high risks in return for potentially high returns,

the Aaron Partnership recommends Guinness Flight and Murray Venture Trust VCTs. The first is managed by Guinness Mahon Development Capital Flight, which has a proven record in unquoted company investments. From March 1984 to December 1995.

GMDC achieved a compound return on

realised investments of 39 per cent a year.

Murray Venture Trust VCT2 is managed by Murray Johnstone, which also bas a long his-tory of investing in small and medium-sized companies. Its management team places £1m a month in firms selected from hundreds of offers received.

Also recommended is British Smaller Companies VCT, a regional fund manager. Managed by Yorkshire Fund Managers, the firm has 10 years' experience in the sector and has consistently figured in the top quartile within its

More conservative investors are pointed towards the Enterprise VCT and Close Brothers Protected VCT

Both have 50 per cent of their assets guaranteed by bigb street banks, Enterprise additionally has 25 per cent of its funds Building from nothing: Start-ups may



mean high risks PHOTOGRAPH: EDWARD SYKES

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Get me out of this debt trap

Case study: Philippa Gee advises a mother of three

NAME: Patricia Olver DATE OF BIRTH: 5-4-1949

OCCUPATION: Administration manager BACKGROUND: Patricia is a single parent, with three children, Tara, Sophie and John, living in Berkshire. The last two are still financially dependent on her. She earns £17,500 per year and receives an additional £1,000 a month maintenance for the children from her former husband.

Patricia has a £30,000 interest-only mortgage, which is due to expire in 2011, backed by an endowment policy with Standard Life. She is paying off a num-ber of debts, including a substantial credit card dehit, plus home improvement and car loans. She has had a personal pension for the past seven years, into which she pays £210 a month.

THE AIM: Patricia is currently spending up to her income limit and wishes to manage her finances better, decreasing balances on her credit cards. She would also be interested in a better mortgage deal.

Maintenance payments will haive in a family bond could repay the proposed year's time when Sophie leaves university, and Patricia wants to sort out her affairs to cope with this future loss of income. She also wants to set aside some £3,000 in savings and is relatively risk-averse. THE ADVISER: Philippa Gee, a director contacted to arrange completion of the

in Shrewsbury, Shropshire (01743

THE ADVICE: The interest rates paid on the majority of your debts are excessive and should be immediately reduced. Equally, you have a variable interest rate mortgage and are exposed to potential rate rises. Total payments on your borrowings are currently in excess of £664 per month.

To remedy these concerns, I recommend you apply for a remortgage of £45,000 to cover all existing debts. You should lock into a competitive rate, fixed over a number of years. Nationwide currently offers 6.5 per cent fixed for two years. Your monthly costs would be reduced by nearly £450 to a more manageable initial level of £219.

As well reducing outgoings dramatically, this would give you a known monthly cost of your short-term concerns, you should avoid additional borrowing in the future.

new level of mortgage, although the progress of these should be monitored.

The endowment policy is still held in joint names and if you are to be the sole owner of this, Standard Life should be of Gee & Co. fee-based financial planner relevant paperwork. The endowment is set

to mature three years after the repayment date for your existing mortgage and therefore the new mortgage should be based on

a slightly longer term to cover this. We can now turn our attention to your other requirements. You realise that you will not be able to retire until age 65 or later. Based upon your existing provision (assuming contributions continue) and fund performance you could find yourself with a pension of approximately £12,000 or more in today's terms. In addition, you will receive the state pension from age 60.

Another concern is the absence of any savings. You would like to set aside a minimum of £3,000. As you appear to respond better to a strict savings mechanism rather than putting away whatever is left at the end of each month, I suggest a standing order to deduct a set amount every month.

You say that £100 could be saved each month. Together with the £450 released from your borrowings, you will quickly reach £3,000. This then allows you to consider other investments. I suggest either the Cheltenham & Gloucester 30-day notice postal account, currently paying 5.5 per cent gross, or the Scarborough Building Society instant access postal account currently paying 6 per cent gross.
Once this "float" has been set up, you

should look each year to see how much

invest. Bearing in mind you have no existing investments I suggest you first arrange a Tessa, on a variable rate so that you benefit from future interest rates rises. A rate of 7 per cent is currently available through West Bromwich Building Society, giving a low-risk, tax-free return if held for the

full five years. Next you should consider a single lump sum payment into your pension. Although

of your residual savings are available to this will be tied up until retirement, you will obtain tax relief on your contributions and the fund will grow virtually free of tax. You could then consider starting a PEP. However, this would mean investing in equities, which do carry a certain risk. This might not at least initially, comply with your cautious attitude to investments.

You are concerned about the reduction and eventual withdrawal of the maintenance payments. You do feel, however,

Patricia Olver wanted to decrease her credit card balances and set aside some savings PHOTOGRAPH: MARTYN HAYHOW

that it is likely the children will find work during this period and will therefore be able to provide towards the costs of living at home. I suggest this need, if any, is met from the cash savings you will build up.

Additional life cover is not essential

although as you are self-reliant you should consider the financial effects of ill health. You already have income protection and can easily add on to your pension a "waiver" costing around £11 per month, allowing your premiums to be maintained if you were unable to work after a six-month deferment period.

Although quite costly, critical illness cover is also worth consideration. This provides a lump sum on diagnosis of a number of serious illnesses. If we set the contract to cease at age 65, a monthly premium of £50 could provide cover of between £50,000 and £75,000, depending on cover preferred. You should also ensure that your will is promptly rewritten.
THE VERDICT: "I thought the advice was

brilliant, I was very impressed with the way Philippa took a difficult problem, that of several debts at high interest rates and came up with a creative solution. The thought of remortgaging for more than at present was not something I had considered. Philippa's approach was extremely efficient and helpful.



John Whiting

he year-end is nigh. No, you've not been asleep since Christmas - it's the tax year-end that we are heading for. Traditionally. this is the moment to take stock of one's fiscal affairs and perhaps make a few resolutions for next year.

The resolution most of us would like to make is to give the taxman less of what he craves for. Assuming you don't want to take the drastic step of earning less, there are ways to reduce the amount you contribute to the ever-open coffers of the Inland Revenue. Many are simple family fiscal housekeeping measures.

The key point to . remember is that everyone has a personal allowance -£4.045 for the coming tax year - which is the tax-free amount every man, woman and child can have. Then income tax starts to bite - the first £4,100 of taxable income is at the 20 per cent rate before the individual moves on to the 23 per cent and later the 40 per cent rate. So is there scope for you

to share income with your spouse if he or she doesn't earn - or earns very little? Two obvious possibilities (assuming the wife is the non-earner) is to let her hold any investments or deposit accounts and so get the interest. Or look at ... employing her or taking her into the business if the husband is self-employed or has his own small company.

The same principles work if u's the husband who is the low or nil-carner, with the added point of looking at the added point of looking at the costs, of course, but they can married couple's allowance (MCA). That is only worth around £274 a year now, but is still worth having and it goes automatically to the husband unless the couple do something about it. It can be split or passed to the wife. The unmarried may be able to claim the additional personal allowance if there are children - this is worth the same as the MCA and again can be split in the best way.

And what of children's tax position? They too have their personal allowances, although any income which comes from an asset gifted by a parent is taxed on the parent if it exceeds £100 per annum. Mind you, other family members are not caught by this, so perhaps Grams can help and give them some jacomeproducing assets? (Giving

the kids loadsamoney now what you want, to you may wish to refer back to a previous article in this series on trusts.) in all cases, bear in mind that the non-taxpayer can

It's the end of the tax year, and time to make a resolution to give the Revenue less

register to get interest income gross rather than with tax deducted. Well worth getting the form from the building society, rather than trying to do a tax

· Turning to Capital Gains Tax (CGI), similar principles apply of splitting holdings with your spouse. Then, could you "bed and breakfast" some shares to use up your annual exemption this year and give yourself a better base value for the future?

If you're lucky enough to have some share options, look carefully at their position - could you usefully exercise some now and realise gains in this tax year rather than next? (But make sure the profit will count as capital and not give rise to an income tax charge - some options will and that could ruin some careful planning.) If we're into pre-year-end

mode, don't forget Inher-itance tax. If you have it in mind to give assets away, consider making a gift before 5 April 1997 if you haven't yet utilised your gift exemp-tion of £3,000. And company car drivers should check whether that April business trip should fall before or after 5 April.
There is also a range of

tax-free investments that you can go for, though many are not available to the children. Tessas are well known: the interest you receive will be . tax free if you leave it in the account for five years. PEPs are very much in vogue: they give a tax-free environment for your shares and bonds. work as part of long term saving - perhaps earmarked for school fees? There is an annual PEP amount available - £6,000 for the basic PEP. Then there are National Savings opportunities available for all. We'll survey all this in a future article.

Don't forget the greatest tax shelter - pensions. Whatever changes might happen in the future, contributions now to approved schemes are tax deductible. There are limits to what you can toss in opically 17.5 per cent of earnings, though the older (and here "older" can start at 36) can contribute more. If you have a personal pension scheme, check that you are making the most of the relief available. If you are in your employer's scheme there may still be scope for additional contributions.

John Whiting is tax partner at

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A good degree and a £20,000 debt

That's what today's sixth-formers can look forward to. Abigail Montrose and Ken Welsby report

hen the parents of today's teenagers went to university. thoughts about money usually meant simply the grant - and how to make it last until the end of term.

If the cash ran out a couple of weeks before the vacatioo, there was always the chance of a couple of nights' work in the union bar - and of course a quick phone call home would often produce at least a modest

Today it's a different story. The value of the grant is shrinking - and many families on average incomes are shocked to discover that their children will no longer qualify for more than a nominal grant, if any.

To make maners worse, there is the growing fear that at least some universities may start to introduce tuition fees.

If you have a child who is now in the lower sixth, be aware that the prospectuses for September 1998 entry to six leading institutions -Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Nottingham and Bristol universities and the London School of Economics – include a

wealth warning". In effect, they are saying to students and their parents: "We don't know if the Government will let us charge - but if it does, we probably will. If you won't be able to pay, don't bother

applying."
The Committee of Vice-Chancellors - in effect university managing directors - are generally in favour of tuition fees. But Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council, who is advising the government oo

the issue, has not yet committed himself in public. The truth is that there is still no clear idea of how student finances will work beyond the next couple of years. But whether tuition fees

arrive or not, the education world is unanimous in the view that higher education costs are rising - and that students and their families will have to foot a bigger share of the hill. As one admissions tutor put it this week: "The only sensible advice for parents is to plan

for the worst. Around 40 per cent of students have part-time jobs during term-time, and many more work every vacation. Yet 87 per cent of students still get into deht.

Increasingly, parents have to contribute to the cost of higher education. But what are the costs - and how much help can you expect from the Government?

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institutioo and a maintenance grant direct to students to cover all their The mainteoance grant is

At present students

from the state. The local

education authority (LEA)

will pay tuition fees to the

receive two forms of support

means-tested and is based on the income of the parents. In the case of mature students. it is the individual and his or her parmer to whom the means test is applied. The maximum grant is

£2,150 a year for students in London and £1,710 a year elsewhere. The means test operates broadly on the same lines as welfare henefits; it allows for household and family expenditure, and classes the remainder as residual income. If the parents have a joint residual income of £16,050 or more, the grant is reduced.

To supplement this. student loans are available. The maximum loan is £2,035 for students in London and £1,645 for students studying elsewhere.

The National Union of Students estimates that the minimum a student living away from home can survive on living in London is around £5.200 a year, and outside London the figure is £4,300. So even if a student received a full grant and the maximum loan, there would still be a shortfall.

In fact, many students do not qualify for the maximum grant, and many find their living expenses, which include accommodation, foods, books and travel,

exceed the NUS minimum. If the maintenance grant system is scrapped, as many expect it will be in the future, Barclays Bank estimates that the average student would owe £20,625 by the end of a three-year degree course.

Many would be put off ng on to further education if they thought they would have to borrow this amount.

Increasingly parents are funding their children's education without expecting repayment. If the to be further reduced or well need to start saving several years in advance.

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The union bar: An extra expense on top of the estimated £6,000 a year cost for a student in a London hall of residence PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW BUURMAN

he issue of private education remains divisive - but many parents who opt for state education for their children at primary and secondary levels will be called upon to contribute to the cost of their univer-

sity or college education. Estimates of the likely hill for a university education vary widely, since the future funding of higher education is in the melting pot - hut as an indica-tion, the National Union of Students calculates that it costs a student £5,410 a year to live in a London hall of residence, and a figure of £6,000 would be realistic to cover the cost of books, meals and travel. Tuition fees, if they are introduced, would be several thou-

The challenge, then, for parents, is to find ways of covering such costs without breaking the bank. One unconventional but highly tax-efficient means of providing for such sums is to invest offshore.

This does not involve numbered accounts in secretive Swiss banks, or laundering money through tiny islands in the Caribbean. The reality is much more prosaic, and involves investment funds based in such decidedly unexotic locations as Luxembourg and

Tony Lyons finds a tax-efficient strategy that doesn't involve Swiss banks

authorities, so long as the investment is in an offshore subsidiary of one of the well-known fund management groups or life assurance companies. there will be little more risk to capital than with most other kinds of investment in managed funds.

Some offshore funds in fact put their money back into the UK. Edinburghbased Murray Johnstone, for example, operates a fund which buys bonds and fixed-interest stock issued by banks with triple-A credit ratings - among the safest investments available.

Investing offshore in this way, a sizeable fund can be created for the payment of school fees or higher education costs

While the charges are slightly higher than their mainland equivalents, because of their tax-free status the performance should more than compen-

Offshore management groups invest Although unregulated by the UK free of UK income and capital gains

tax. This means that they can invest tax free with the gains and income being reinvested to make the fund grow

Individuals who invest offshore usually do so in roll-up funds, so called because the earnings are rolled up year after year, and drawn only when the investment is cashed.

. The investors only become liable to. income tax on the gains at the time of encashment - and even then, there are ways in which the tax liability can be

There are a couple of main methods of investing money offshore to pay for education, which apply equally to school fees or higher education costs.

If you are planning to pay fees some years ahead, the most straightforward means is investment in one of the many offshore funds now on offer. The investor faces a vast choice, everything from UK equities to Latin American specialists and currency funds.

A number of the leading management groups offer umbrella funds where investors face just one set of charges. They then have a choice of sub-funds to invest in, between which they can usually switch freely.

A typical example is Gunness Flight's International Accumulation Fund, launched in 1980, that has 14

sub-funds including a range of currency and bond funds as well as international and European equity funds.

The investment can then be cashed in as needed. Investors should note that they will be liable to income tax on any gains and will not benefit from the UK indexation rules on them. But if the encashment is on a phased basis to pay for school fees, the tax liability can be minimised.

Use of offshore funds can be particularly useful in providing money for children going to university. A parent or grandparent can set up a trust offshore in a child's name which will pay an allowance after their 18 birthday.

As the student is unlikely to have any other income, and taking advantage of the tax allowances, a significant proportion of the money can be received virtually tax-free.

Another method of using offshore investments is for low-rate taxpayers who need to pay school fees immediately and have a significant lump sum. They can buy an offshore annuity which will pay the costs of schooling and other expenses each term.

As annuity rates are continually fluctuating, an independent adviser with a knowledge of offshore annuities will be able to advise on how much is needed to purchase such an annuity.



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Public schooling assured

Tony Lyons works out the best policies to pay the fees

dren privately need to be aware at the outset of the likely cost. Secondary than £30,000 as a day pupil - and at least double this if boarding is being considered.

Only a few are lucky enough to have trust funds that they can use. Many have grand-parents with sufficient capital to fund school fees.

Yet well over half the parents and guardians who privately educate their children pay the fees themselves. Anyone considering this route needs to plan carefully - both to ensure that the funds are in place and to minimise the impact on the family's overall finances.

means of saving for school fees, schemes that depend entirely on stock market performance, which can go up or down in value, can leave the investor with a shortfall Life assurance still offers one of the most important means of paying for private education for children - and grandchildren.

Life assurance can be used to save for future or immediate school fees. The earlier a scheme is set up, the cheaper it will be - a number of independent financial advisers earn their livelihood from selling specialist school-fee packages.

The simplest use of life assurance for early planning is to use a charitable trust to invest a lump sum. Althoughthis has lost some of its tax advantages, it still offers a guaranteed way of paying the maturity proceeds, usually fees on a term basis. Over a third of the value.

In effect, the capital is used to buy an annuity which pays the fees direct to the school. A

arents considering around £30,000 worth of educating their chil-school fees over five years. school fees over five years.

Most people, however, do
not have the £20,000 to invest.

schooling for just one child to the age of 16 could cost more provide the answer. In this case a conventional Many private schools now

follow the state system and provide secondary education from 11 rather than 13, as is the case with the more traditional boys' schools - so you can plan ahead on the basis of a conventional 10-year endowment policy taken out before a child is one year old. This will then provide a lump sum when the child is 11:

The clever parent should use the proceeds of the policy to negotiate with the school to pay all the educational fees at least to 16 - in one lump While there are different sum. Most schools will discount charges, or at the very least any future increases in their fees, if they are offered a one-off lump sum payment.

The benefits of conventional with-profits life assurance are twofold. Firstly, they offer generous life cover. Secondly, once declared, the annual bonus - expressed as a percentage of the sum assured cannot be taken away or reduced. While these tend to be quite low, the bulk of the maturity value is the terminal bonus, paid to reflect the life office's performance over the whole period of the policy.

Even though the values of the terminal bonus on 10-year policies have fallen in recent years as inflation has come under control, it still forms a significant proportion of the

Today, a 30-year-old paying £100 a month into a 10-year



The privileges some parents pay for: School fees for one child can cost upwards of £30,000

value will depend on the performance of the underlying investments.

What of those who cannot plan ahead or decide for whatever reason to send a child to private school without any savings in advance? Paying fees

out of income is very expensive. There are ways of financing education by spreading the payments over the term of a life assurance policy or by taking out a mortgage.

Ecclesiastical Insurance, for

example, will lend up to 75 per cent of the value of a property for school fees with a life assurance policy being used to repay the loan before the borrower retires. Many huilding societies offer similar schemes allowing mortgages to be increased up to the normal valuation level.

Shorter-term loans, usually for 10 years, are also available from the specialist insurance with-profits policy can expect hrokers such the School Fees sum of £20,000 could provide .. a good life assurance company Insurance Agency. These are

and are repaid with a 10-year with-profits life assurance policy taken out with one of the better-performing companies such as Friends Provident.

The borrower draws down the school fees each term from the bank. In return a monthly sum, dependent on age at the outset, is invested in an endow-

Meanwhile, interest is paid on a the outstanding loan at a preferential rate, usually a couple of points over the bank's base rate.

Monthly payments will therefore start quite low but would go on rising until the end of the school fees when they will stabilise. At the end assurance can provide a means ment policy that is used to of 10 years, the loan will be

to forecast a maturity value in excess of £18,000. The actual and are repaid with a 10-year maturity value in maturity value in excess of £18,000. The actual and are repaid with a 10-year maturity value. Because life maturity value. Because life offices are conservative in their forecasts of future values, the borrower should find a small capital sum left over.

The earlier the planning for school fees, the cheaper it becomes. But even for those who do not plan ahead, life of spreading the cost.

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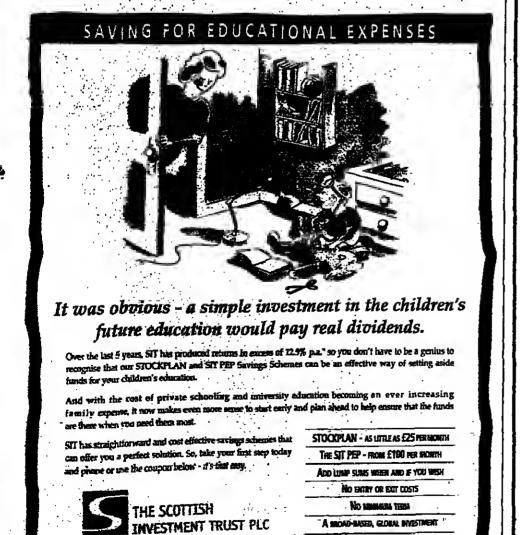
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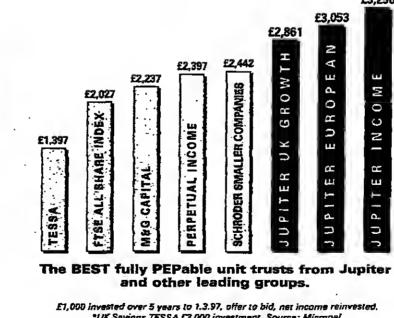
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Passing the final hurdle

Abigail Montrose and Ken Welsby consider the options for meeting further education costs

early teens or younger.

tax year in a PEP.

regular income.

Certainly, to take advantage of a unit trust's full potential you

should try to leave your money invested for at least five years. If

recent wiodfall - remember that

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So you can put £6,000 into a plan

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year, and do the same again at any

time in the following tax year. Or

ment now and then start a regular

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from, which one will be suitable to

save for higher education? Since

your goal is to make your money

grow between now and when your

child reaches 18, look at PEPs

investing in unit trusts which specif-

ically aim for capital growth, rather than those which aim to pay out a

Unit trusts are grouped in vari-

ous sectors according to how and

where they invest. But not all unit

trusts can be held in a PEP - in sim-

ple terms it must be one which

With so many PEPs to choose

arents can save towards meeting the costs of higher education in a variety of ment would grow, if you had a child in 1980, and had put all your child benefit payments month by month education in a variety of ways. The three main factors to consider are the amount you can afford to save each month or year, the age of your children and the amount you want to raise.

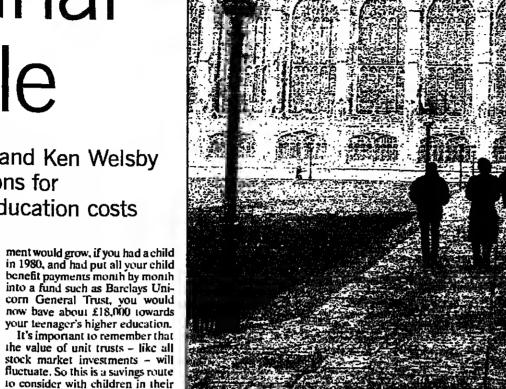
The simplest option is to put a regular amount in the building society each month: those with five years or more to save can save in a tax-exempt account (Tessa), which means all interest on their savings would be tax-free at the end of five

For those prepared to take some risk, investing in the stock market offers more potential. The most tax-efficient way to do this is through a personal equity plan (PEP), which shelters any growth or income from the shares from tax.

There are hundreds of PEP schemes which would be appropriate savings vehicles, some requiring an investment of as little you could make a lump sum payas £20 a month. Most of them invest your savings in unit trusts, which are ideal for newcomers to the idea of investing in shares since the decisions on which shares to buy and sell - and, just as importantly, when to do so - are takeo by experts whose judgement gen-erally will beat that of the armchair investor.

Barelays Unicorn has just reduced the minimum investment on its PEP to £20 to encourage people to save for their children's higher education through their

To illustrate how such an invest-



by chance, you have a lump sum –
perhaps a bonus from work or a

Prayers may help: but forward investments should not be discounted

PHOTOGRAPH: NICOLA KURTZ

invests mainly in the UK and continental Europe.

The bad news is that some of the top performing unit trusts do not qualify for tax-free PEP status because they invest mainly in the US or the Far East. The good news is that those which invest nearer home are generally seen as safer

bets for the small investor.

One of the good PEP-able growth sectors of the last five years has been UK Smaller Companies. £1,000 invested five years ago in the top-performing fund in this sector (Hill Samuel) would be worth about £3,360 today, assuming you had not touched any of the income. Other good performers which invest in UK smaller companies include unit trusts from Britannia. Invesco, Morgan Grenfell and

Schroder. If, instead, you had looked at

funds investing in Europe. £1,000 invested in the top-of-the-table Old Mutual would have been worth £3.160. Also worth a look in this sector are the funds from Jupiter and Gartmore.

Many of these funds will sell to you directly by telephone, but you must remember that the person on the other end, however he may describe himself, is really in the business of selling a product.

If you are uncertain about any aspect of investing in a managed fund, or you simply want some specialist help in floding the right fund to meet your needs, you should talk to an independent financial adviser. When you talk to an IFA he or she will take you through a detailed enquiry into your finances - known as a fact-find to be sure that you are getting the

It's also worth noting that some of the good performing unit trusts are oot marketed directly, and are generally available only through IFAs and stockbrokers.

You should also be aware that not all funds offer monthly savings plans; some want minimum lump sums of at least £1,000 or more. Again, this is the sort of informa-tion that an IFA will bave at his

PEPs are not the only tax-free investments. Others include friendly society schemes, which are geared to the needs of modest savers. British Benefit Friendly Society has just launched its Education Plan. For as little as £15 a month you can build up a tax-free lump sum which your child can then use to help them repay a student loan or any other debts which may build up in further education.

University challenge

learn the hard way talk to Ken Welsby

ews that the student teacher hired to coach John Gummer's daughter in Latin bad worked in a Soho "clip joint" to pay off her debts will have sent shivers down many pareots'

"It was easy money," Selina Merryfield said of her work as a hostess encouraging foreign businessmen to buy champagne and sandwiches for £70-£100 a time. The lesson to be drawn from this story is that parents can provide their student offspring with easy mnney without putting them in moral danger - simply by

planning ahead. Dr Martin Kavanagh, an automotive design engineer, is determined his children Harriet and Martin should not bave to suffer as he did as a student in Birmingham in the early 1970s: "In my second year I was in digs with no bathroom and usually no hot water - and for the last three weeks of every term I lived on a diet of beans, chips and cocoa."
When his children were eight

be took out 10-year endowment policies, each costing £20 a month, which would mature when they were in the sixth form.

"It was a real pain at the time; £40 a mooth going out when we could only just afford it," he recalled. "In fact, when I was made redundant from British Leyland, there were a few months when we couldn't manage it ~ but my father and mother-io-law chipped in to keep the policy going. Two years ago we collected about £4,000 on the policy for Harriet before she went off to Edinburgh and we will do about the same for Martin this year.

"It will be particularly helpful in his case because be wants to do a European engineering degree, which will probably take four years and involve living to France for half the time. So, obviously, the costs will be higher.' Students often find that

landlords will take advantage of their oeed for cheap accommodation, and this is an area where parental provision can

Parents who had to be particularly helpful in helping their childreo escape from

difficult circumstances. After two years of living in flats which were virtually unheated and with a water beater which more than once burst into flames. Bea Marshall and Jackie Macdonald took drastic action to improve their standard of living for their final year in Manchester.

"We were paying almost £40 a week each to live in a slum." Bee said. "To be hooest, I'd have given it up rather than face another year." They decided to find rented property on the open market, rather than through student channels. This year they are sharing a modern, twobedroom flat on a one-year lease with the option to renew for a further year if they stay on for postgraduate work.

"It's a lot more expensive - £60 a week each, but just the thought of being able to take a shower in hot water every day makes it

worth every penny." Jackie said. Her parents, who were horrified ar the standard of their previous accommodation, agreed to pay the deposit and guarantee the rent, provided the girls found part-time work to contribute their share of the cost.

In the event both girls worked 12 hours a day, six days a week throughout last summer as cocktail bar waiters in London's West End - and did the same again in the run-up to Christmas.

Jackie's father, Andrew. confesses that he had given no thought to the cost of higher education until his daughter was leaving school - at which point he was shocked to discover that they did oot qualify for a grant. Fortunately, as a self-made businessman, he had some money put by in shares and unit trusts which he has been cashing in at

intervals to pay college bills.
"In the late 1970s and 1980s I was always doing deals," be said. "I never went out without £500 in my wallet - but I never thought of long-term investment until I was into my 40s when I met some stockbrokers at a race meeting."

Now, with an eye to the future education of bis 13-year-old son, he is putting a lump sum each year into PEPs. "I just wish I had known earlier what education was going to cost," he said.

* THE INDEPENDENT



©Las Vegas ●Mexico ●Goa ●Israel

BT are celebrating their international price call reductions by giving The Independent and Independent On Sunday readers the opportunity to win one of 12 international holidays for two in this 'International Celebration Competition'. Enter today and you could soon find yourself the envy of all your friends by jetting off, with a companion, to one of four locations - Las Vegas (USA), Mexico. India or Israel. The competition will appear in the newspaper from Friday 14th to Monday 17th March.

Today's featured destination is Cozumel, Mexico - to where BT have slashed the costs of calls from the UK by $20^{c}e^{*}$. Yesterday we gave you details about the holiday to Las Vegas. Over the next few days we will be running details on the other destinations you could win, as well as details on International call price reductions.

How to enter To enter answer the four questions on the Entry Form. complete the tie breaker in a witty and original manner. fill in your name, address and daytime telephone number and send your entries to: BT Price Cuts Competition, Band & Brown Communications.

(*Call 0800 003 800 for full details of international price reductions.) (Some IDD prices are unchanged. Direct dialled calls only. Excludes BT public Payphones

In which state of the USA is Las Vegas located? ☐ Florida ☐ North Dakota ☐ Oklahoma ☐ Nevada Which one of the lollowing famous brands of alcohol comes from Maxico? ☐ Brandy ☐ Gin ☐ Vermouth ☐ Tequila Which one of the following famous children's stories is set in India? ☐ The Jungle Book ☐ Chicken Little ☐ Beauty and the Beast ☐ The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. What is the capital city of Israel? Paris 🗆 Marrakesh □ Jarusalem □ Ottawa TIE BREAKER: I deserve to win a BT long distance holiday because: (no more than 15 words, in a witty and original manner.)

Las Vegas,USA ☐ Mexico ☐ India ☐ Israel ☐

Preferred destination



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by no later than 6 April 1997.

and BT Chargecard calls)

Today's featured destination - Mexico Twelve miles from Mexico's Yucatan, in the Caribbean sea, lies beautiful Cozumel, an island of barefoot pleasures and a relaxed Mexican aimosphere with white sand beaches, crystal clear water and coral reefs. Included in your prize are return flights from Gatwick, Seven days at the Diamond Resort in Cozumel includes all meals and drinks (excluding champagne). Water sports, like scuba diving, are available as are other daily activities such as tennis, hicycles, hackgammon etc. and lively evening entertainment.

BT is throwing in £500 spending money to help get you started. If you require further details of the holidays on offer please send a stamped, addressed envelope to Band & Brown Communications at the address below.

It The address heliaw.

Terms and conditions: Winners will be notified by post by 20 April 1997. Photocopied coupons will be limited. One entry per person. The judges rections is that and no condopendence will be or tend into. Proof of postage does not constitute proof of beingery no responsibility will be taken for lost, damaged. Beginbe, delayed or mislad entires. There will be no atternative prices difered and the prices are not transferable. Entries must be from readers aged 18 or over. All holidays are subject to the terms and conditions of the four operators. You are strongly advised to take out any necessary travel and health insutance. The Independent cannot be held hable for any greatness or loss or damage to persons or their property. Price winners will be responsible for organising valid pose-pontly) and for securing any necessary mass. All holidays are subject to analysisty. All holidays must be taken by December 31 1937. There are whele holidays on offer, there to each destination. The 12 entrants who answer all the directions correctly and complete the be organised the firm the most withy and original manner will win the holidays. This best entries will reconside the her prize withers will be allocated their prizes according to availability. A set of winners will be available by sending a stamped, addressed envirope to: BT Price Cuts. Band 6 Brown Communications, 18 Compton Terrace, London, N1 2UN.

This competition is run by Band & Brown Communications a company sudependent of The Newspaper Publishing pic.

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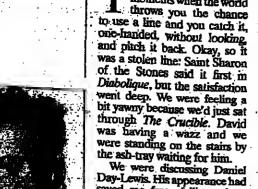
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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

inside back

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY



Serena Mackesy

n my week

parties and

someone

been to a

party

really good

were standing on the stains by
the ash-tray waiting for him.
We were discussing Daniel
Day-Lewis. His appearance had
saved me from falling asleep
altogether by inspiring an
attack of the giggles. It's
that Irish thing, It's gone
beyond a joke, It's fine
wanting to be Irish I have wanting to be Irish: I have occasional urges to dig out me old granda's birth certificate myself. Artists don't pay tax, the bars are great and they've got the coolest capital city in the world after Valenta. But Show me Dan's taken it beyond that he's not content just with having the Nationality and developing a bit of a brogue: he is transforming himself into George Best. The similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting through the second light of the similarity is getting the similarity in the similarity is getting the similarity in the similarity in the similarity is getting the similarity in the someone who hates

smoking at larity is getting stronger all the time: the scruffy beard, the bad haircuts, the highly-coloured noise. All the way through The Crucible, I kept expressing him to the colour stronger and the s I'll show you kept expecting him to throw down his rake and shout: "for f***'s sake bring me a bottle of whisky and the shortlist for this year's Miss World". who's never

Sam was going "Did you notice the miracle, by the way?"
"No. What miracle?"

"The teeth. Didn't you see? They kept changing. I mean, he had these mice, white, shiny English - sorry, Irish - middleclass teeth all the way through, and then when he got his soliloquy at the end they'd. turned green and stumpy and lie kept frothing through them."
"Yes. I did."

"And then, when they hanged him, he'd got the old ones back. There wasn't a gob of spittle when he was saying the Our

Well, you can't spit when you're praying."

There are those sublime I could have saved thousands of I said, "It's not a reliable moments when the world pounds on the boys' teeth." pounds on the boys' teeth."
"They'd have to sincerely

repent first."
"Oh, they'd probably have done it like a shot if they'd thought it would make girls

fancy them." And then Taupe Woman came up. She had one of those "T've got children and I haven't got time for frivolity" harrcuts, and an expression like someone who has just tried hundred-year eggs for the first time. "Excuse me," she said. "Mmm?" we turned to her. "Do you know what day this is?" she said. Sam



and I had to think for a moment, days of the week not being so important to the self-employed. "It's Wednesday," said Sam.
"No," said Taupe Woman. "It's National No Smoking Day."

A moment's silence. "How

can you smoke, today of all days?" said Taupe Woman.
"Sorry," said Sam. "Not my belief system. I drink during Ramadan, too." "Well, it's disgusting, "said Taupe Woman, "a disgusting habit", "That," I said, "is a matter of opinion." I have had a long, loving, romantic relationship with the cigarette, and people trying to part me from my babies only makes me more determined to hang on to them.

Taupe Woman tried another tack. "Well, if you don't care about yourselves," she said, "you should think about the rest of us, Don't you realise your smoke can kill other people?"

Which was where I offered a

you're praying."

"It's amazing," said Sam.

"Redemption as orthodontist.

The same of thanks to Saint Sharon.

I took a deep drag, looked her hard in the eye, exhaled. "Sadly,"

Year by year, National No Smoking Day has gone belly up in a cloud of nonentity and I've finally worked out why: it's because smoking is a taupe issue, not a health one. Show me someone who wants smoking banned in public places and I'll show you someone who has said to a colleague: "I'm really tired.
We were up 'til one o'clock last
night playing Trivial Pursuit."
Show me someone who hates smoking at parties and I'll show you someone who's never been to a really good party.

I mean, think about the kind of mind that

the kind of mind that could say "I know. We'll take a group of people who are counter-suggestible enough to light up while watching ER, and we'll invent a day dedicated to not do in the counter-suggestible. dedicated to not doing one of their most They'll all want to join in because they won't want to be left out."? Only a taupe person could think that a day posited on a negative could be a success. Days that work are based on positives:

Armistice Day (promotion of peace); World Aids Day (promotion of the alleviation of suffering); International Women's Day (celebrating the existence of a superior species). Put "no" into a title and that's the reaction you get. I know half

a dozen non-smokers who make a point of doing it on March 12. Taupe Woman and I stared at each other across the gulf of nothing-in-common. Everyone needs role models, and I suppose it's inevitable that someone, somewhere would choose Anne Diamond. Sam pushed her glasses up ber nose, smiled, said nothing. David emerged from the boys' room, and Taupe Woman's husband walked out behind him, pulling a woolly scarf from a Sainsbury's carrier bag. "We'd better go," he said. "It's after II o'clock. What did

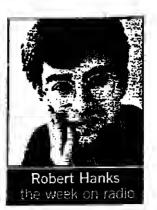
you think of the film?"
She followed him down the stairs, "Very good," she said, "And Daniel Day-Lewis was so

The (English) language barrier

Ou have to feel some sympathy for Patricia J Williams: arriving in Britain to deliver the Relth Lectures (Radio 4, Tucsday). supposedly one of the peaks of intellectual life in this country, she must have expected to be treated with respect, or at least simple courtesy. And what happens? First the tabloids, outraged by the notion of a black American woman lecturing us about the politics of race, denounce her as a political extremist. Then she gets roughed up by Melvyn Bragg on Start the Week (admittedly, it was quite a mild beating by his standards - Jean Aitchison, last year's lecturer, really felt the rough side of his - but Professor Williams

concerted). And to add insult to injury, one of the "qualities" dismisses what she said to Bragg as nonsense and offers prizes to any reader who can make sense of one of her sentences - a little unfairly since. as all journalists know, sentences that make perfect sense when spoken conversation, when transcribed can look like

seemed understandably dis-



So when she finally got to the starting-line, I was ready to root for her. And after three weeks, it's disappointing to have to admit that these lectongue, and not in a nice way tures are really not very good. Actually, Reith Lectures hardly ever are very good; it's an extraordinarily difficult form to bring off successfully even the geneticist Steve

> amusing interviewee in the run-up to his Reith Lectures a few years ago, when it came to the point, was rather dull. But to the exigencies of form, you have to add some

what precisely is "an assimilative tyranny of neutrality as selferasure"? (Quick now, there's another sentence coming up. with the fact that her brand of English is subtly alien to English ears. In her first lecture. talking about her young son's apparent inability to identify colours, she said: "I began to suspect some social complication in which he somehow was invested." Invested? You see what she means; hut it's an odd word to use, and at other points context doesn't supply you with enough information to make

The story about her son's supposed colourblindness (apparently, he'd just taken to heart the repeated insistence of white liberal teachers that "colour doesn't matter") also Jones, a dazzlingly sharp and highlighted another problem: she is not a very good storyteller, stripping her illustrative anecdotes of circumstantial detail so that they feel notional, abstract, implausible. At the same time, she has problems peculiar to Professor a weakness for over-extended feel uncomfortable is all the Williams. Too many of her sen- metaphor and overblown confirmation she needs.

sense of the oddities.

tences are either impenetrably dense or ungraspably vague – the sensitive listener wincing.

That's a shame, because the arguments lurking in the verbal fog are straightforward and important. Her funda-You don't get any time to think mental point is this: black about this.) This is partly to do people see racism as a fremendous problem, while people don't. Isn't this gap in per-

In this country, in particu-

lar, racism is frequently dismissed as a problem that happens elsewhere – an example of this tendency was this week's Dncument. "Chocolate Soldier from the USA (Radio 4. Thursday), which looked at the disproportionate number of black Gls hanged for raping white women in the Second World War. Throughout the programme, US racism was contrasted with the open-mindedness of the British - which may be reasonable, but also sounded selfcongratulatory. Professor Williams makes it clear that race is not a subject we can afford to be comfortable about; and perhaps the fact that the media in this country

And the world laughs with you

here wasn't much evidence of the pulpit in BallykissDibley (BBCI, Fri), last night's blind date between two primetime priests, but more than enough elsewhere in Comic Relief's order of service. The hiannual task of the Red Nose festivides is to find a satisfactory compromise between entertainment and consciousness-raising. The hiannual task of columns such as this one is to express the worry, which may or may not be widely felt, that a grab-bag of Hancocks and Deaytons has no business parading a con-

science that their daily work

requires them to conceal. There was a particularly monstrous example of this critical stance in another newspaper's review of the first instal-ment of Balls to Africa (BBC1, Sun, Mon, Tues). It imputed the basest of limelight-seeking motives to the messy menage of celebrides assembled for a football tour of West Africa. They were described as "embarrassingly available" and "secondrate" by a reviewer the memory of whose witty radio stuntwork has been all but eclipsed by the widely noted brevity of his own career in TV. How second-rate is "second-rate"? Better than having no rating at all. In fact, the now established

tradicion of comedians report-



ing from the front line of deprivation is part of a much wider trend in TV. Celebrity involvement huys an audience for documentaries that would normally be given a wide berth. They may be about feeding the world or feeding the intellect (remember Terry Jones on the crusades?) but the same rules apply. It speaks far less well of the viewer than the viewed

the invertebrates for needing

to be led by the hand towards

our own wallets, or our own

enlightenment, by people who

ne week on televisio

make us laugh. If there was a slackness to Balls to Africa, it took the refreshing form of an admission, albeit unspoken, that these

a swarm of giggling "Africans". as the beneficiaries of our charity are generically known in this sort of film, and reckoned it world view, in which the didn't have the answer to much punchline looms larger than the same question. Most of the the poverty line. But it was a welcome retreat from the holy know-all style of some previous Comic Relief films. The tendency in Comic

Relief programming to senti-mentalise "Africans", with the help of slow-motion and plangent soundtracking, is not inflicted on "the homeless". Lenny Henry's hrief in Walk On By (BBC1, Wed) was to present his street-sleeping subjects as individuals. Genetically programmed to be larger than life, he suppressed his own personproblem, to sell the very newsdoing, Frank Skinner stood in switched over when he was on. peans". Who needs them?

crew to Canterbury to show them his childhood haunts. "Who'd want to film you?" a was "great that they're doing friend, passing by, asked incredgags". That summed up the almost childlike paucity of his on Kilrov (BBC1. Thurs) women participating in this studio investigation into nude modelling were thinking in terms of a future in TV presenting. However, television is a prudish medium. "Tve got a degree," said one woman from under uniform white hair. "But I can't get a joh as a presenter. Perhaps at Channel X, but not Carlton." So there we have it: rejected by the channel widely regarded as the lowest of terrestrial low, but granted a free screen test by Kilov.

As an act of wholly inappro-

ality wherever loudness was priate charity, it was matched mappropriate, but skilfully used only by the plug for a moribund it wherever possible to coax the pop group in The Queen Phethat this should be so. We're personality out of others. In nomenon (C4, Mon). Channel one scene, he helped Jason, a 4 ought to set up an inquiry to boy with a periodic heroin find out how this one managed problem to sell the very news-paper that carried this week's got through its defences. Per-haps it happened the day critique of Comic Relief's Michael Grade was handing in impure philanthropy. (In a his resignation, MTV had prerather choice irony, the punters sumably discarded it as insufall wanted him to autograph ficiently rigorous. The film was the front page.) Jason eventu- made by a rum-sounding pair celebrides didn't know pre- ally felt familiar enough with called Rudi Dolezal and cisely what good they were Henry to admit that he always Hannes Rossacher. "Euro-

DAMIEN HURIS ... and his painfully creative struggle Neil Kerber THIS IS WHAT I LOVE ABOUT LONDON IT'S ALSO A PASANDA. ITS NOT JUST THE TUNIC ? PLACE OF UNSPOILT IT'S A GALLIANO! COOLEST, HIPPEST CITY IN THE HISTORY AND TRADITION

Whatever happened to...

13 / mg

Rock 'n'

1957 Coffee houses. jukeboxes, jiving in swirling skirts, writhing, and diving. The sexual follows the rock 'n' roll revolution as Britain shakes to the new sound. Freedom of expression: how to be young and active. Riots hall the first arrival of Bill Haley from the US on these shores. Forty years ago this month he was rocking around the clock to the

screams of a nation's eager young womanhood

Fight back From the black rhythm 'n' bhies sounds shipped into the Mersey the Beatles export back a new version. The US goes wild on their first tour in 1964. Being more famous than Jesus challenges a mere King (Elvis). They also have all the best

Pardon? However, by the 1967 Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts' Club Band album they've gone from being nice young men in suits to hippies in huge floral print shirts. From being chippy and chirpy to choral and curious. Old-style rock 'n' roll seems to have disappeared. Groups bring out albums inspired by drugs and flower

power culture.

Get real Into the 1970s, and we did. The gentle tones of California grooving turned to glam rock - all high heels and high notes - and punk.

By the 1990s Rock is splintered into many factions: house, garage, ambient, jungle, rap. And that's just dance. Guitarbased rock has a collection of golden oldies at the helm. Next week,

Bill Haley's Comers perform in Bertin . The Beatles sold more records last year than ever before. Poetry, cookery, anything is the "new rock in roll", but not music. Yet The Daily Mail recently spoke of "the insidious, amoral influence of much modern music". Rock 'n' roll must still be with us ... but it helps if you are over 40.

AA Roadwatch

or from the A1 Great North Way.

operation across the Avour

utar rush-hour delays.

lar delays expected.

Dewsbury Road.

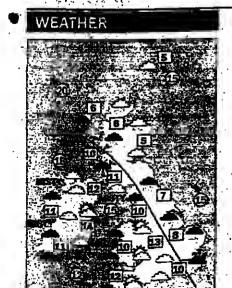
Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow in

J to. Southbound entry slip closed. Tyne & Wear, A19 Moor Farm. Major roadworks. Expect queues.

both sides of the river.

James Aufenast





The British Isles General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

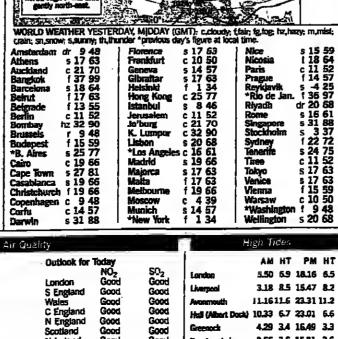
Scotland and its islands will be cloudy with most places getting some rain, and it will be foggy over the hills. However, Shetland may well stay dry all day. Northern Ireland should get some hazy sunshine, but there will be a lot of cloud, and also some drizzle to the west. England and Wales will mostly cloudy with rain and drizzle while western hills are foggy, but the Midlands should get some hazy sunshine this afternoon.

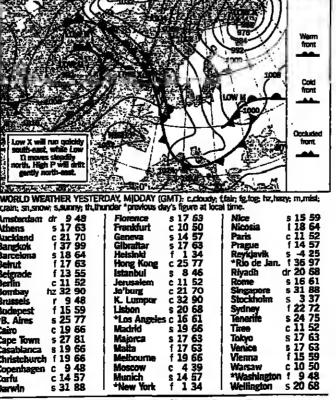
Sunday will see a lot of cloudy, misty weather with rain to the north and drizzle to the west. However, central and eastern areas should get some warm hazy sunshine. More cloudy weather and rain is expected over northern Scotland during Monday and Tuesday. Elsewhere, it looks like being essentially dry with some sunshine, but there will be a lot of cloud drifting around. Showers are

		٤	then likely to break out almost anywher during Wednesday, while northern Scot stays wet.	e land
therdom c 13 55 mglesty f 12 54 mglesty f 10 50 solidast c 1 34 solidast c 3 48 lanckpool c 9 48 lanckpool c 12 54 lanckpool c 14 57 kristol c 12 54 lanckfif f 11 52	Dever Dublin Edinburgh Exeter Glasgow Generally Invertess	1 13 c 12 f 11 s 12 c 12	52 Liverpool c 11 52 Shrewsbury c 55 Lizard c 11 52 Southampton c 54 London c 14 57 Southampton c 52 Manchester c 10 50 St Andrews f 54 Newcastle f 13 55 Stornoway c 54 Newtrington St 10 50 Tiree	12 6 11 5 12 5 13 5 13 5 11 5 13 5

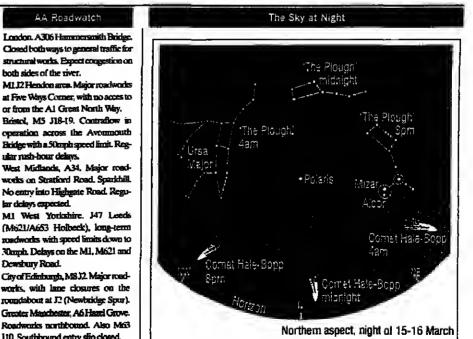
6:17pm to 6:20am 6:14cm to 6:17mm b 5-20er _6:15pm to 6:19am a 6:21am ..6:12cm to 6:17am 6-19am 6:23om to 5:27am







Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls Full moon: March 24 429 34 1649 33 3.56 3.6 15.31 3.6



of northern constellations, the Great Bear (Ursa Major), sweeps high overhead over the course of the night at this time of year. The seven stars of the Plough (or Big Dipper) are just the brightest asterism in a constellation that sprawls over a much larger area. In a dark sky. you can see fainter stars outlining the bear's head and paws. Unlike real bears, the dusk or just hefore dawn. celestial species - both Great

ne of the most familiar and Little - sport tails. The of northern constella- "handle" of the Plough doubles as the Great Bear's tail. Test your visual acuity, and 'or sky quality, by looking for Alcor, fainter companion to Mizar, next but last star in the Plough handle. Like the Great Bear, Comet Hale-Bopp is currently placed so it citcles the pole and never sets for observers at UK latitudes, hut it is easiest to see soon after



The big picture To Have and Have Not Sat 4.40pm BBC2

Whereby the 19-year-old Lauren Bacall slouched across the big screen for the first time, as the New Yorker's Pauline Kael put it, "and managed to make the question 'Anybody got a match?' sound like the most insolent and insinuating of demands". Howard Hawks put the former cover girl in this hugely entertaining Humphrey Bogart adventure (set in Vichy-controlled Martinique) on the advice of his wife. The original story was by Emest Hemingway, but the film is pure Warners. A joy.

Television preview Recommended viewing this weekend

it - the wrong-headed intrusion of one medium's artfulness into another medium - and with so much television drama now shot like a movie. a stagey TV drama is - QED - a bad thing. And yet, stagey material - i.e. setbound and borrowing theatrical conventions - is often what works hest on

television. Think of silcoms; think of soap operas.

It helps, of course, when the material is as good as My Night with Reg (Sat BBC2), the latest in a so far exciting season of Performance. Kevin Elyot's moving and witty six-hander looks at the various machinations of a group of gay men, five of whom are either in love with (or have slept with) the eponymous but unseen Reg, who dies from Aids. I'd call it a gay Big Chill if that didn't sound so po-faced and anyway miss the point entirely. My Night with Reg is informed by the gay experieoce of Aids, but is not really about Aids, but about friendship, treachery and the often cruel logic of love. The original West End cast - David Bamber (curreotly camping it up in Chalk), John Sessions, Anthony Calf, Joe Duttine, Roger Frost and



The Call of the Sea Sat 8.10pm BBC2 Have Your Cake and Eat It Sat 9.20pm BBC1. A Night In with the Girls Sat & Sun 9.20pm BBC2. My Night with Reg Sat 10.10pm BBC2 Family Money Sun 9pm C4 God Bless America Sun 11pm ITV

very comfortable with the material. A treat.

Which is more than can be said of the join-the-dots adultery drama Have Your Cake and Eat It (Sat BBC1), whose opening episode has nothing remotely interesting to say on the subject. Griff Rhys-Jooes lookalike Miles Andersoo is the errant husband, Holly Aird his mistress and Sinead Cusack the wife. Both hubble and his main squeeze work as designers of state-of-the-art amusement park attractions. So this four-parter (four parts!) has already secured a nomination for the most clunking metaphor of 1997 an extra-marital affair as a roller-coaster ride.

Family Money (Sun C4) is also io four parts, but at least I can imagine watching the second instalment. Adapted by Ruth Carter from Nina Bawdeo's novel, this stars Claire Bloom as an ageing widow who is sitting on a small fortune in unrealised real estate a period end-of-terrace family house in some extremely desirable part of Londoo. Wheo she receives a severe beating on the way back from ber favourite restaurant, her children decide it's time she

o call a cioema movie "stagey" is to denigrate Kenneth MacDonald - are all intact and obviously downsized and started divesting some of her wealth. On to them, naturally.

It's a good weekend for documentaries. The Call of the Sea (Sat BBC2) will add to BBC2's growing reputation as purveyors of quality oral history. The old salts on display here come straight from central casting, with their heards, jaunty caps and rheumy, faraway eyes. The first film looks at the conflicting desires amongst the sailors for the sea and for a stable

A Night in with the Girls (Sat & Sun BBC2) is a history of women in television, starting in the 1940s when womeo were either decorative props in Light Entertainment or concerning themselves with the four Cs (cooking, childreo, clothes and celebrities). God Bless America (Sun ITV) is a second series of the programme in which writers weave personal portraits of individual US cities. Crime writer Patricia Cornwell applies ber eye for life's darker ironies to Richmond, Virginia, whose principal landmark, for her, is the city morgue. "An autopsy is without doubt the most detailed medical examination you will ever bave."



The big matches Scotland v France

Sat 2pm BBC1 & 2.45pm BBC2 Wales v England Sat 3pm BBC1

The Beeb are showing both matches in tandem – thanks to the hour's time difference with the Continent. The first half of France's attempt at the Grand Slain kicks off on BBC1 at 2pm, shifting, for its second half, to BBC2. The Cardiff Triple Crown decider sees probably the last Five Nations outing for one of rugby's modern legends, Will Carling (above).

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R)(S)(T) (1415912). 7.25 News, Weather (3864979). 7.30 Felix the Cat (R)(S) (3SS3202).

7.45 Phantom 2040 (R)(S)(T) (8881 196). 8.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (5673776). 8.35 The Flintstones(R) (S859399). 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (78673283).

12.12 Weather, (7202134). 12.1S Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider from Cardiff (7201405). 12.20 Football Focus (2928641). 1.00 News (8154082S). 1.05 Rugby Union: the build-up to today's Five Nations Championship matches (3793863). 1.SS Rugby Union: France v Scotland. Live first-half coverage, kick-off at 2pm, from the Parc des Princes, Paris. The second half can be seen on BBC2 at 2.4Spm. See The big matches, above (7989009). 2.4S Rugby Union: Wales v England. Live coverage from Cardiff Arms Park. Kick-off is at 3.00. See the big

matches, above (87228486), 4.40 Final Score

(3268844). 5.00 Rugby Union: France v Scotland. Second-half highlights (6931). S.30 News, Weather (7) (912863).

S.40 Regional News and Weather (101196). S.4S Dad's Army (RI(S)(T) (892979).

 5.15 The New Adventures of Superman (S) (476283).
 7.00 Noel's New York House Party. Noel Edmonds swaps Crinkley Bottom for a New York apartment. which gives him the opportunity to cosy up to the likes of David Hasselhoff, Tyne Daly, William Shatner and Barry Manilow, Joan Rivers, meanwhile, receives a Gotcha at a bogus art exhibition (S) (239009).

7.50 The National Lottery Live, Dale Winton announces Britain's Eurovision entry, while Whitney Houston shows off her latest single (S)(T) (749825). 8.10 Crime Traveller. Another mildly enjoyable yarn for

Michael French and Chloe Annett's time-travelling coppers. This week, a fashion designer is receiving death threats (S)(T) (309028). 9.00 News and Sport, Weather (7) (608825). 9.20 Have Your Cake and Eat It. See Preview, above

(S) (338486). 10.1S They Think It's All Over. Highlights of the second series of the comedy sports quiz (S) (158047). the projected main event (S)(T) (5805689).

11.50 Chalk (S) (T) (R) (538660). 12.20 Top of the Pops (R)(S)(T) (6902697).

12.50 Eliza The Bride in Black (James Goldstone 1990) USJ. Daytime soap star Susan Lucci plays a woman whose husband is shot outside the church on their wedding day. It turns out, natch, that her fiance had a murky past. David Soul helps out in this join-the-dots thriller (T) (\$974968). 2.20 Weather (8186697). To 2.25am.

REGIONS: Scot: 9.20pm Mind the Gap: The Old Course. 9.50 Have Your Cake and Eat It. 10.4S Sportscene
– Match of the Day. 11.50 They Think It's All Over. 12.20 Chalk. 12.50 Top of the Pops.

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Maarten Van Heemskerck: Humanism and Painting (7120950). 6.45 Drifting Continents (9938009). 7.10 Lifestyles, Work and the Family (9764660). 8.00 Open Saturday (S)

10.30 Magic Town (William A Wellman 1947 US). Interesting Capra-esque fable (it was penned by Capra's regular scriptwriter, Robert Riskinl in which polister James Stewart discovers a small town which exactly reflects national opinions and sets out to exploit it. Local newspaper editor Jane Wyman tries to thwart him (T) (1605.3825).

12.10 Film 97 with Barry Norman. Bazza looks at The English Patient, as we all will no doubt have to at some stage (R)(S)(T) (2S18134). 12.40 Elim B Dorado (Howard Hawks 1967 US). Underrated to some, plain old tired late Hawksian western shenanigans to others – this stars John Wayne, broad of girth and sluggish of movement, as a cowboy who helps clean up drunken sheriff Robert Mitchurn so that together they can beat off the baddies (T) (38327432).

2.45 International Rugby Union France v Scotland. Live second-half coverage from the Parc des Princes, Paris. Commentary by 8ill McLaren and Gavin Hastings (S) (4228680).

3.30 The Car's the Star (R) (S187912).

3.50 The Saint, Peter "Jason King" Wyngarde guest-stars in this episode of the glam 1960s Simon Templar yams. Roger Moore stars (9798196).
4.40 To Have and Have Not (Howard Hawks 1944 US). See The big picture, above (T)

(280115). 6.15 Travels With Pevsner. New architectural series

6.15 Travels With Pevsner. New architectural series which uses Nikolaus Pevsner's classic guide, The 8uildings of England, as a starting point for six people to look at six English counties. First up, Dan Cruickshank on the bulldings of Norfolk (223028).
7.0S News and Sport, Weather (T) (872592).
7.20 Correspondent. Andrew Jeffrey returns to Angola to come to terms with a horrific accident on an oil rig nearly two decades ago, which left him paralysed. Tim Whewell reports from Svelogorsk, in the former Soviet republic of Belarus, where the first Aids case was discovered six months ago and where now one was discovered six months ago and where now one person in 70 tests HIV positive (S)(T) (338844).

8.10 Call of the Sea. See Preview, above (T) (684221).

8.50 Titl Death Us Do Part. An episode from 1974 finds Dandy Nichols's "silly moo" heading off to Australia

to tend to her sick sister (R) (312080). 9.20 A Night In with the Girls. See Preview, above (S)(T) (604931).

10.10 Performance: My Night with Reg. See Preview, above (S)(7) (309486).

11.SS Windows on the World. Ian McGarry's film of the performance of young Irish composer Patrick Cassidy's cantata based on one of Ireland's best-loved legends, The Children of Lir. Recorded in 13th-century St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, with

the Tallis Chamber Choir and the Irish Sinfonietta. conducted by Philip Simms (S) (409SS4).

12.50 Global VideoByte. Top of the pops in Taiwan, Mall, Germany, Sweden, Morocco and Egypt (Then Weatherview) (3140784). To 1.15am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.50 8ug Alert! 7.15 Dragoriflyz. 7.45 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Power Rangers Zeo (6585202). 9.25 Scratchy and Co (S) (24060202). 11.30 The Chart Show. (S) (35298). 12.30 Love Bites. Ant and Dec guest in the show dispersing advice on relationships (96912). 1.00 News, Weather. (T) (81568221). 1.05 London Weekend Today (T) (81567592). 1.10 UEFA Champions' League Special. Preview of the quarter-final second-leg matches being played this Wednesday (88984806). 1.40 Sturrtmasters (R) (11629009). 2.05 ERES Greyfrians Bobby (Don Chaffey 1961

2.05 Standard Greyfrians Bobby (Don Chaffey 1961 UK/US). The loyal little Skye terrier sets up home in the Greyfrians graveyard where his late master rests in this exceptionally fine live-action Disney offering. Stars Donald Crisp, Laurence Naismith, Kay Walsh and Gordon Jackson (764592). 3.45 SeaQuest DSV (7) (297414).

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather. (7) (3252283).
4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather. (7) (3252283).
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (7) (1425405).
5.20 Clueless (S)(7) (6719383).
5.45 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch. Superman actor Dean Cain guest-stars as himself (S) (469196).
6.10 Early Edition. This new US Import stars Kyle
Chandler as a stocklynder who is mustainable see Chandler as a stockbroker who is mysteriously sent a newspaper containing the next day's news. Does he use it for personal profit or to help humanity? (7)

he use it for personal profit or to help humanity? (7) (961776).

7.05 You Bet! (S)(7) (969738).

8.05 Stars in Their Eyes. New series of this popular impersonation and karaoke show – and a Jarvis Cocker and an Ethel Merman (oh, yes) are among the first up (S)(7) (306931).

8.50 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (857738).

9.05 Cracker the Movie: True Romance. Fancy packaging for what is really two repeated episodes showing back to back. Fitz starts getting a nonymous love letters from a woman who thinks he is perfect. But when a dead body turns up. Fitz he is perfect. 8ut when a dead body turns up, Fitzests another letter which suggests that his admirer is the killer (R)(S)(T) (25360738).

11.05 Tarrant on TV. Chris Tarrant looks at the way condoms, once taboo, are now treated openly on TV. Tarrant to the treated openly on TV.

TV. Tired stuff - but then, this is a repeat (R)(T) 12.05 in Bed with Medinner, Bob Mills takes a another brawl through odd and obscure TV (S) (6098448).

12.30 First Tom Horn (William Wiard 1980 US). Steve McQueen knew he had terminal cancer when he made this beautifully photographed western. It centres on a former cavalry scout whose uncompromising methods rub people up the wrong way when he turns them from tracking Indians to confronting cattle rustiers (347784). 2.25 Tropical Heat (S) (9582887). 3.20 El News Review (7702158).

4.00 Club Nation (R)(S) (8970245). 4.55 Night Shift (R)(S) (34698413). 5.05 Coach (S) (1989239). 8.25 Night Shift (R)(S) (8689500). 5.30 News (9958 1). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (29912). 7.00 Dumb and Dumber (35486). 7.30 Dennis (R) (3546912). 7.45 First Edition (R) (3541467). 8.00 Transworld Sport (91202).

9.00 Moming Line (S) (68399).

10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (43405).

11.00 NBA 24/7. Mark Webster meets Shaquille O'Neal, one of the NBA's all-time great players, in his LA

apartment (S) (23641).

12.00 Lambs' Tales. Film-maker Amanda Baxter visits a farm in the Cumbrian mountains during the lambing season (R)(S)(T) (8861573).

12.40 Channel 4 Racing. From Ultoweter. Derek Thompson introduces the 12,45, 1.15, 1.50 and 2.25 races (S) (40022860).

2.45 Each Humoresque (Jean Negutesco 1946 US).
Joan Crawford, in tha second, post-Mildred Pierce, stage of her movie career, plays the patroness of rising violinist John Garfield (dubbed by Isaac Stem). A stonking Warner melodrama with (Clifford Odets) dialogue so unintentionally camp that it ought to join the scouts (7) (16539860).

5.0S Brookside Omnibus (R)(S)(7) (2882912).

6.30 Right to Reply (S)(7) (573).

7.00 A Week in Politics (S) (4660).

8.00 The Goldring Audit. Stem-eyed Mary Goldring investigates flat racing, an industry in which prize money is insufficient to give owners a reasonable return. The demands of the betting industry keep III-frequented race bloodstock technologies that nobody wants, and there is no considered plan for the future. That's

telling them (S)(T) (4680). 9.00 Last Chance Lottery. Ulster stand-up Patrick Kielty and more of life's losers (S) (4824). and more of life's losers (S) (4824).

10,00 Eurotrasti, Antoine et Jean-Paul front this rerun magazine show looking at those odd people who live just across the English Channel. Tonight's programme travels to Amsterdam for the annual Cannabis Cup, and meets aspiring pom directors in France. Plus Michael Winner's verdict on Europe's first drag gueen restaurant (R)(S) (91979).

10.30 The Show, More from Bob Mills and his let-It-all-hang-out that show (S) (R967879).

hang-out chat show (S) (8967879).

11.35 Hill Street Blues. Two desperate young
Puerto Ricans take hostages during a hold-up

(R)(T) (154592). 12.35 The Client. Ho-hum drama series based on John Grisham's best-selling thriller. Momma Love's friend Verna asks Reggie to protect her from a family member who wants to destroy her marriage for personal financial reward (S) (5850055).

1.30 The Girlie Show. Guests Include the Spice Girls wee, hah. Don't they ever rest? (S) (9900264). 2.0S Ricki Lake (R)(S)(T) (8088326). 2.50 Beavis and Butt-Head (R)(S) (5172516).

3.1S Flava (S) (99177). Bless This House (R)(S) (98448). 4.15 Film Night. Janice Forsyth looks at Milos Forman's new film, The People vs Larry Flynt (RX(S)

4.45 The Beat Specials. The Red Hot Chili Peppers In concert (R) (9668054). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

RMELIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (96912). 1.05 Angla News (81567592). 1.40 A World Of Wonder (2249009). 2.15 Baywatch (8784776). 3.10 Films Carry On Segnant (77682573). 5.05 Anglin News, Sport (1425405). 12.05 Films Into Thin Air (535852). 1.50 Camal Knowledge (3475500). 2.46 Films Gollath and the Barturians (115210). 4.15 Sound Bitts (19394790). 4.35-5.30am Funity Bunker (6543448).

CETRIL.

As London sucept: 12.30pm Premiere (96912), 1.05
Certral News (81567592), 1.40 Movies, Games and
Videos (11635860), 2.10 Film: Son of Fhibber
(761405), 3.50 sea@uest DSV (8517863), 5.05 Central News (9610115), 5.10 Central Match - Godis Extra (3484202), 4.00 Jobfinder (1122500),
5.20-5.30em Astan Eye (8194887),

BTV WALES
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Video (96912). 1.05 HTV Wales News (81567592). 1.40 Shurbmasters (7984554). 2.30 World of Wonder (3981844). 2.55 Airwolf (3862283). 3.50 Baywatth (8517863). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results (1425405). 12.05 Films Into Thin Air (535852). 1.50 Carnal Knowledge (3475500). 2.45 Films Colombia and the Barbarians (115210). 4.15 Sound Bites (19394790). 4.35-5.30am Funky Bunker (6543448).

(1939-790). 4.35-5.3.tath Futby Sales 105-5. HTV Wales except: 1.05pm HTV West Headlines (81567592). 1.10 Sportsweek (1931370). 1.45 UEFA Champiors League Special (607738). 2.15 Car-tion. Time (27283134). 2.20 Airwolf (2182467). 3.15 Baywaich (4857950). 4.10 The List (4906931). 5.05-5.20pm HTV West News, Sports Results (1425405).

MERIDIANI AS LONDON PER PRESSURE (96912). 1.05 Meridian News (81567592). 1.40 Movies, Garnes and Videos (2249009). 2.15 Baywatch (8784776). 3.15 Filenc Carry On Sergeant? (77688573). 5.05 Meridian News (1425405). 12.05 Films Into Thin Ar (535652). 1.50 Carrell Knowledge (3475500). 2.45 Films Goldon Into the Barbarians (115210). 4.15 Sound Bites (19394790). 4.35-5.30am Furdey Burtler (6543448), WESTCHIARTER

(19394790), 4.35-5.30am Fisher Burner (6543446), WESTCOMMEN'
As Landon except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (96912). 1.05 Westcountry News (81567592). 1.40 Planet Rock Profiles (11635660), 2.10 Stummasters (8262757), 2.50 Airwolf (8364047). 3.50 Leachest DSV (8517863). 5.05 Westcountry News (1425405). 12.05 Film: Into Thin Air (535852). 1.50 Carnal Knowledge (3475500), 2.45 Film: Gollath and the Barbarians (115210). 4.15 Sound Bites (19394790). 4.35-5.30am Funky Bunker (6543448). YOURISHIPE.

VORISHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (96912), 1.05 Catendar News (81567592), 1.40 Films The Undefeated (35918776), 2.50 Baywatch (8517863), 5.05 Calendar News (9610115), 5.10 Scareline (3484202), 12.05 Movie Show Special (6098448), 12.30 Casch (3220974), 12.55 in Bod with Medinner (5695245), 1.25 Films McCabe and Mis Miller (27431871), 3.35 Furny Business (13023603), 4.05 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (41849974), 4.30 Misrder, She Wrote (7702852), 5.20-5.30am Scard Bites (8194887).

Channel 3 North East
As Yorkshire except: 1.05pm North East News
(81567592) 5.05 North East News (9610115), 5.105.20am Full Time (3484202).

540 As C4 except: 10.00ats: Hengin' with Mr Cooper (38080). 10.30 Birdies on the Green (69370). 12.00 Moviewatch (83950). 12.30 Channel 4 Racing (51592). 2.30 Rygbl: Pencampwriseth Y Purn Gwlad (14256592). 6.35 Greekog (5737. 7.00 News (875689). 7.15 Neson I'w Cholio: Egwys Gadeiriol Lerpwi (2678592). 8.20 Het Braeco (433912). 8.50 Pengelli (823793). 9.25 Lag. Chance Lottey (4838134). 11.35 Forteen TV (532486). 12.05 Bright Sparks (6904055). 4.45-5.40am The Beat Specials (7892429).

Radio

Radio 1

197.6-99 2MH: FMB 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Claire Sturgess 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Pampling – Lovegroove Dance Par-ty 9.00 Radio I Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix - 0J Sneak 4.00-6.00am Annie

Radio 2

(8840.2MH: PM) 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 The Monkhouse Archive 1.30 To the Manor 8cm 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barracloup 5.00 Ry Cooder: Chicken Skin Music 6.00 Comic Relief on 2 7.00 Schmooze and Showbiz (F 7.30 The Music of Robert Stolz 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 The Showband Years 12.05 Sue Mc-Garry 4.00-7.00am Mo Outta

G92924002F0 6.55am Weather, News Headlines. 7.00 Record Rev 9.00 Euilding a Library. 10.15 Record Release 11.15 Recsues. 12.00 Private Passions, Another chance to hear Michael Berke ley talking to broadcaster and

anthropologist David Attenbor ough. (R)
1.00 | Was Triefe Richard Fawkes returns with five more interviews that bring to life great musical events and celebrities of the past. In the first programme, cellist Alexander Kok recalls his me as the youngest member of

1.20 News; Vintage Years. In the first of three programmes. An-nette Morreau investigates the short life of William Napell, the first virtuoso pianist to be born 3.20 Youth Orchestras of the

Music presents a programme of 16th- and 17th-century antiphonal music associated with St Mark's, Venice. S.00 Jazz Record Requests.

6.30 Live from the Met: Cosi fan tutte. Mozart's black comedy with an untranslatable title is an Intimate src-hander of partnerswapping and deception in love. Carol Vaness, soprano (Fiordiligi), Susan Graham, mezzo (Dorabella), Stanford Olsen, tenor (Fernando), Mark Oswald.

lan McEwan attempts to delineate his ideal state where flux is permanent and, perhaps unsurprisingly, all are free to be miserable, in returns to laugh off the miseries of real life.

baritone (Gugliemo), Cecilia Ba toli, mezzo (Despina), Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropol-tan Opera/James Levine. Act 1. 8.10 The James Naughtie Interview. James Naughte talks to this evening's Dorabella, mezzo Susan Graham.

8.40 Cosi tan tutte, Act 2.

10.20 Best Words. Tonight, an interview with poet and translator Elaine Feinstein, and Helen Lawrence's love poetry.

10.50 Impressions. Alyn Shipton talks to New Yorker Oavid Shea combine sampling and improv sabon. For a specially recorded session, Shea is joined by Scan session, Shea is joined by Sc ner (Robin Rimbaud) and by

tuba player Oren Marshall.

12.30 First Bass. Bass player Ray
Brown talks to Alyn Shipton. (R)

1.00-7.00am Through the Night.

192494 SMHz RM, 1920Hz UM 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather

9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 11.00 News: The Week in West-

11.30 The Americas File. Bridget dall reports from Argentina. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 The News Quiz. See choice, 12.SS Wealther.

1.00 News. Dimbleby and the panel are in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, With Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland; Alistali Darling, shadow Chiel Secretary to the Treasury; Sir David Steel MP; and Dr Winnle Ewing, president of the SNP.

Choice

Utopia and Other Destinations 50pm R4). Earlier in the day, The News Quiz (12.25pm R4)

1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Death

and the Pleasant Voices. By William Ingram, from the novel by Mary Fitt. When Jake gets stranded in a thunderstorm, he doesn't expect the welcome he gets when he asks for shelter. With Matthew Morgan, Andrew Wincott and Julie Higgine 4.00 News: That's History. 4.30 Science Now. A look at white

male fertility rates are dropping. 5.00 Anthony Clare's Musical Melancholia, Professor Anthony Clare asks why gloomy music is so popular, (R) 5.40 New York Olanes, American humonst David Sedans reads from his diaries.

5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 So O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Utopia and Other Destina-

tions. An interview with writer lan McEwan. See chorce, above
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. One of the most enduring plainsong an-tiphons which has inspired composers from medieval times to the present day is Salve Regina. traditionally sung by monks at compline every night. Richard Coles examines its history, how il reflects changing artitudes to the Virgin Mary over the centunes, and discovers the legend which was said to have inspired

the original composition.
7.50 On These Days.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The Colour Norman. By Stephen Drisdale and Jerome Vincent tings invents a new colour and is besieged by fastion designers, greedy lawyers and MIS, all desate to get their hands on it. With Richard Pearce, Roger May and Oavid March. (R) 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten.

10.15 Oark Tales: The Beetle. By Richard Marsh. Oramatised by Roger Danes. First published in the same year as Bram Stoker's Dracula, which Marsh's Gothic novel outsold six times over. Member of Parliament Paul Lessingham, a handsome man of wealth, talent and ambition,

has a strange and disturbing past which threatens to destroy him, With Robert Harper. 11.45 Britain in Pictures. (R) 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: A Good You-Know-What. By Michael Carson. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday Radio 4 LW **欧科学学作用 1980年10**

No Variations Radio 5

1993, 909 Ut With 6.00am Oirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Haves at Breakfast 9.00 Weekens 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Sick as a Parot 12.00 Fichard Littlejohn
1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Sn.-0-Six
8.00 News and Sport 8.10 The
Treatment 9.00 Dailyn IIX 10.00
Brief Lives 10.30 Asian Perspective 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

132 6-131 986 731 6.00am Sarsh Lucas 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Jane

Classic FM

Markitam 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Que 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone Virgin Radio 1215, 2197-1267Att WK 105 8Mtc Pth 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Puss in Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00

lereny Clark 2.00 The Album Chari with Mark Forest 5.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce **World Service**

CEEPLY DIS 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Just a Minute 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Renew 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday 5.30-6.00am Weekend/In Praise of God (SW 7150kHz only)

Satellite

7.00am Orson and Olivia (80950). 7.30 Free Willy | 76757). 8.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (20738). 9.00 Quantum Leap (41893). 10.00 Kung Fu – The Legend Continues (65641). 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (65592) 11.30 Sea Rescue (66221), 12.00 Wrestling (5/863). 1.00 Wrestling (37283). 2.00 Star Trek (4/1573). 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (44009). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Speci Nine (56844). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (4252). 5.00 King Fu - The Legend Continues (57047). 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (90776). 8.00 Coppers (7689). 8.30 Cops (16796). 9.00 Cops II (52028). 9.30 The Serial Killers (52S92). 10.00 Law and Order (99047). 11.00 Red Shoe Olaries (57573).

LAPD (61 149). 1.00 Dream On (64535). 1.30 Smouldering Lust (26564). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long 7.00pm Beverly Hills, 90210 16898825). 8.00 Melrose Place (5807\$73). 9.00 Pacific Drive (6894009). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (7-03844). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (7412S92), 11.00 Stand and Deliver (2975863), 11.30 Stand and Deliver (7454399). 12.00-

11.30 The Movie Show (45028). 12.00 Wild Oats (41968). 12.30

6.05 The Walls of Jericho 172420776). 8.00 Farswell to the King (30467). 10.00 The St Tamdit's Silver Angel 153318). 2.00 Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (71641). 4.00 The Amazing Panda Adventure (3-486). 6.00 Johnny's Girl (91405). 8.00 Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (96950). 10,00 Peralel Lives (787115). 11.45 Pentsthion 1807863). 1.30 Diamond Skulls (22326). 3.00 The Most Desired Man 19413261. 4.35-6.10am The St Tam-

many Mirade (33048332).

6.00am Hrt Mix (9228239).

SAY MOVIES 5.20am The Borrowers (64476641). 8.00 Police Academy: Mission to Moscow (32825). 10.00 Roswell (43844). 12.00 The Neverending Story 3 (55776). 2.00 ! Love Trouble (80399). 4.00 Police Academy: Mission to Moscow (5844). 6.00 Roswell (93863). 8.00 I Love Trouble (65080). 10.00 The Shooter (770825), 11.50 Inner Sanctum (314738). 1.25 Fatherland (231790). 3.15-5.00am Cowboy

SKY MOVES GOLD 6.00pm Dunkirk* (88348283), 8.15 Beetiejuice (17542404). 10.00 A Nightmare on Elm Street Part 2: Freddy's Revenge (7807689), 11.30 Death Hunt (3773950), 1.10 Spymaker: The Secret Life of lan Fleming (\$731332), 2.50 Pat and Mille* (\$723603), 4.25-5.50am Murder at the Gallop* [68985167].

SAT SPIRITS 1
7.00am World Sports (80216), 7.30
The Rugty Club (54115), 8.30 Racing (15196), 9.00 Super League (S7318), 10.30 Ringside (34776), 12.00 Sports Saturday (65689), 1.00 Badminton (62046009), 3.45
Sports Saturday Results (997028), 5.30 NMH Paracement (520728), 6.30 Sports Sauricay results 1970/col. 5-30 NML Powerweek (52973), 6-30 loe Hockey: Superleague Play-off (954196), 9.00 Rugby Union (788080), 11.30 Spanish Football 1709573), 2,00-4,30am loe Hockey: Superleague Play-Off (319852).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM (8766486). 11.00 Survival of the Fittest (8173370). 11.30 World Sports Spe-cial (8181399). 12.00 Golf: Por-Description (7008405): 2.00 Gott: Portuguese Open (7008405): 2.00 Gott: Portuguese Open (5308467): 5.00 Badminton (4100825): 7.00 Spanish Football (2105486): 9.30 Motor Sport (9737318). 11.00-1.00am

Golf: Portuguese Open (3187979). 12.00noon Cricket - South Africa v Australia: Second Test (6840075 7).
3.30 Cricket - West Indies v India: Second Test (93297912). 9.00 Golf. Honda Classic (93297912). 11.00 Inside the PCA September 2011 Inside the PGA Senior Tour 132193554). 11,30-12.00mldnight The Snowboard Show (30811979).

5.00am Pin Money 5.30 Fashion 7.00 Sport 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Pop July 8,30 Looking for Love 8,45 Pet Squad 9,00 Revelations 9,30 Fastion 10,00 Agony 10,30 Bingo 10,45 Pet Squad 11,00 Trial TV 11,30 Fata and Fortune 12,00 Why 12,30 Agony 1,30 Trial TV 2,00 Fastion 2,30 Agony 3,00 Fata and Fortune 3,70 Fata and Fata Agont 2,70 Fata Azony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Por Money 4.00 Looking for Love 4.30 Pop Quiz 5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 6.00 Pach-ion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Pln Money 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Bushido 9.00 Handy Musica 25.00 Bushido 9.00 Handy Hunks; Bingo 9.15 Bottom Une 9.30 Why 10.00 Topkess Darts; Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.00 Topkess Darts; Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex 11.55 Entitica Exotica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30 Shopping 2.00 Sex 2.30 Stand-Up 3.00 Revelations 3.30 Why Files? 4.00 Sex 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Sport

32 P. 12 S. 12 SHOPTE

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